HOME TOWN IN THE CORN BELT

A Source History of Bloomington, Illinois

1900 - 1950

In Five Volumes

Compiled by

Clara Louise Kessler

Volume V

Bloomington, Illinois

1950

MCLEAN CTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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VOLUME V

HOME TOWN CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

AMATEUR MUSICAL CLUB

by

Emily Brandicon Snow
(Mrs. Charles Snow)

MEMORIES OF PAST ACHIEVEMENTS OF

AMATEUR MUSICAL CLUB

The development, growth and activity of the Amateur Musical Club has been one of the greatest cultural forces in McLean County, and has even been known across the United States for its years of definite achievement.

Bloomington, by these remarkable musical opportunities, has been placed in the front rank for Concerts among cities not only the same size, but many times larger.

The Club stood primarily, in its earlier years, for the development and presentation of amateur musicians and the bringing of Concert Artists was of secondary importance.

There are many aspects concerning the functioning of this organization and its contribution to the Community that will no doubt interest the reader, and it gives me great pleasure to share my memories of its phenominal growth and activity.

The Club was founded in 1893. Four talented young women met in a home to discuss their interests and talents and to play and sing for each other. Two were pianists and two were singers.

Mrs. Bernice Kidder Green
Mrs. Mary Sidley Fleming
Mrs. Charlotte Burr Harwood
Mrs. Florence Eddy Davis

I like to draw upon a rather vivid imagination as I picture these young ladies discussing their ambitions and of their devotion to the music of the great Masters. Their hunger and their eagerness to present for each other's consideration the various types of composition, the gradual development of this friendly group, soon attracted others to it and in less than a year the number increased from four to thirteen members.

Mrs. May Johnson Capen
Mrs. Fern Shores Funk
Miss Jeanette Loudon
Mrs. Eda Maier Capen
Mrs. Charlotte McLean Stevenson
Mrs. Frances Aldrich
Mrs. Fannie Bunn
Frances Marie Scroggs

The projection of the musical talents of these young ladies in the Community were an asset for many years.

The Constitution and By-Laws adopted in 1893 read in part:

"This Club shall be called THE AMATEUR MUSICAL CLUB.

"The membership shall be composed of ladies, both Student and Active. Men may become Associate Members.

"The general membership shall be limited to 175 members.

"The object of this Club shall be, 'mutual improvement, increased opportunities for hearing music, and general musical culture'."

Through the fifty-seven years of its existence this "all-woman's organization" has labored in this Community and served and guided the Club's destiny with unparalleled success. It has been very definitely a "Club of music lovers with lofty ambitions" all through the years, beckoning young musicians to strive high in their efforts to the realm of more artistic musicianship.

We might recognize also, that through the years of Concerts by world-renowned Artists, never has the Club had to rely on financial guarantors and it has never closed a season with a deficit of funds. In the fifty-seven years only four Treasurers have held office.

Mrs. Fred B. Capen
Mrs. F. J. Welch
Mrs. Charles P. Hanson
Mrs. J. Huber Allen

These women have handled hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Club in its presentation of great artists and in its promotion of fine music.

The funds derived from a modest membership fee were used to secure the Artists available, and to meet the required expenses. Many times, from the well managed balances, contributions could be made to local and national charitable causes, such as the MacDowell Fund and the Paderewski funds.

The Club never realized net profits in the years of its existence, for the expenses incurred, such as, rental fees, piano moving, livery hire, extra chair rentals, etc., used up the funds from the sale of Season Tickets and whenever a balance occurred in the Treasury it was already a fixed sum for the securing of even better talent for the coming season.

The membership had its years of immense growth and its years of depression. A continual steady growth until 1926, when the membership numbered 1882, quickly diminished to 534 by 1937. At the present writing, January, 1950, the membership stands close to 1500 members, held to this number in spite of a long waiting list, because of the limited capacity of the Consistory Auditorium in which the Concerts are held.

One might well ponder this almost phenominal success through the history of music in Bloomington.

Years before the schools and colleges presented their curriculums for a well rounded musical education, the Amateur Musical Club carried through its local programs a most versatile and interesting season of literary, ensemble, operatic as well as concert programs, both with home talent and talent from other cities. The earlier Year Books show program after program with "Studies of the Opera", "German Composers", "French Composers", Greek music, "Musical Form", and slowly as the years rolled on, step by step we were lifted from the periods of Romantique and Absolute music into the Impressionistic, Modern and Program Music. And, it was not just knowledge alone, but an abiding appreciation through the continual presentations and illustrations of the new music which people grew to respect, love and enjoy.

As the sharp contrasts were noted in the program numbers year after year, the Club Members studied the new Composers and the gradual changes into modern music.

Many music lovers will long remember Mrs. George Coen's valuable and entertaining, as well as instructive and scholarly lectures when she gave generously of her time and almost unlimited knowledge to present a resume of Artist programs as well as sketches of the Artists themselves.

Mrs. Coen was a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music, and all through the years continued to keep abreast of the advances of modern music.

Ten years before this Club was founded, the famous Von Elsner family gave to this community a most glamorous musical atmosphere. Marie Eugenia Von Elsner, known to the operatic world as Marie Litta, was proclaimed by the critics a second Jenny Lind. Her brief phenominal career puts her first in the list of Bloomington's gifts to the musical world.

The establishment of the Amateur Musical Club with its conspicuous emphasis upon "Amateurs in Music" was the opening of new frontiers to educate the people of Bloomington to develop and listen to the finest music and to share it with others.

Through its half century, it has shared and projected its gifted musicians across the continent and into the metropolitan areas. Madam Minnie Salzman-Stevens, Lyell Barbour, Cecil Burleigh, Grace Wagner, Arthur Dunham, Mrs. Deane Funk, Evelyn Mayes and Miss Jeanette Loudon have all enjoyed a succession of triumphs and also gave generously of their artistry to their home town friends. Mrs. Funk is living today in her rural home nearby and was one of the outstanding and most gracious pianists who literally gave her all to the Amateur Musical Club. She played here with three of the leading Symphony Orchestras of the country, and was a tremendous inspiration to the students and music lovers of the community.

Miss M. Jeanette Loudon moved to Chicago, but returned to

Bloomington year after year, playing programs of Chamber Music with some of the leading Stringed Artists in the Middle West. Her beautiful contributions seem to belong to an earlier period of the musical life of our fair city.

Dr. James Francis Cook introduced a new word in one of his recent Editorials which I wish to borrow and incorporate into this "memory analysis" of the Amateur Musical Club. It has to do with the "binding together of a great many factors to make a coordinating whole", according to Mr. Webster. The word is "symphysis" and how very much its meaning effects all the walks of life today.

Nevertheless, I wish to outline the way in which the working together of the many musical people helped to develop and transform the raw material into artistry and skillful performance.

One of the important committees to function was the Test Committee which listened to the auditions of promising young talent. Through the time and patience of this Committee's siftings and encouragements, promising young talent were taken into the membership and gradually grew into the student and active branches of work.

If the Amateur performer had talent and would give time to music study and improvement, the club offered much encouragement and opportunity. One of the valuable sources of inspiration was the several Social Afternoons or "At Home" programs. Gracious hostesses opened their spacious homes to the Active and Student members, and the informal discussions and atmosphere combined with the serious efforts of the performers, as well as the personal pride the older members took in the new, was a genuine inspiration to young musicians. Stimulation from playing for each other and the quiet home atmosphere, rather than the recital halls or in the churches, put a student on her metal and she always aspired to do her best on those occasions.

Many of these new students went into the various classifications, Student, Junior student, and Active as pianists, contraltos or sopranos, cellists, violinists and organists, and out of this talent the Club presented Ensamble groups, Oratorios, Vesper programs, Chamber Music, duos, Literary Programs, and musical settings for poetry, all emphasizing the educational value of music by enlarging their opportunities.

The constant enthusiasm of the early members of this organization which seemed to permeate the whole membership - the well planned years program of activity - the tireless efforts and energy expended through concerted effort, the unfailing good judgement and discretion of the official Board, all contributed to developing Bloomington audiences with high standards and appreciation for the best in music.

It is literally true that the world's best Artists have been heard here from time to time, and this has only been possible by the existence of this Club and its continual number of discriminating members and officers.

The first Artist Concert was given by Leopold Godowsky, the eminent pianist, on December 1st, 1896. Climbing the flight of steps from the street to the auditorium of the Unitarian Church, we found a capacity audience colorful under the brilliance of the old fashioned chandeliers. The Programme presented the Classics, including the lovely Liszt arrangement of Schubert's "Hark, Hark the Lark", the Magic Fire Music from Wagner's Opera, Die Walkure, and the Erl King, all numbers we do not often hear on Concert Programs today.

The earliest local talent program that stands out in my memory was an Ensamble Program, presented in Cooler Hall in the Hoblit Building, April, 1900. Outstanding on the program was the Haydn Toy Symphony, directed by Miss Irene Bassett. Active members played the instruments to represent Cuckoo, the drums, the tambourine, and all seemed to enjoy taking part. Piano duets and trios were played, vocal trios were sung and one stringed quartette presented a group of numbers. The afternoon was greatly appreciated by the listening audience.

One of the first large undertakings by the Club was in March, 1905, when they presented the sensational Polish Pianist, Ignace Paderewski, in Concert at the Grand Opera House. What anticipation and the details of preparation and the whole community was thrilled at the opportunity. The brilliance of the Opera House with its plush seats, its heavy velvet curtained boxes, the ornamentation and filigree, as well as the poised, ermine garbed Society matrons, the great and expectant crowd, to us looking on from the rear Balcony, was a thrill unbelievable. While, no doubt, the heavy curtains, the carved woodwork all retarded the needed accoustics, we sat entranced as the slender Artist's fingers poured forth almost inspired interpretations of the intricate Variations on a Theme, by Paganini, the beloved Appasionata Sonata of Beethoven and also the Schubert-Liszt arrangement of the Erl King.

Today, how cramped that old Opera House would seem, how inadequate compared to the large spacious foyer and Auditorium of the Consistory Building, which handles capacity crowds so admirably. Yet this Grand Opera House was used for the succession of Artists, Madam Fannie Bloomfield-Zeisler, Geraldine Farrar, Lillian Nordica, Mischa Elman, Albert Spaulding, Josef Lehvinne, and the Homecoming concerts of Madam Salzman-Stevens, Grace Wagner, Mrs. Willis Harwood, Mrs. Deane Funk at the audiences stood waving their handkerchiefs amid applause and cheers.

I remember very distinctly when the Club decided that the great handicap in bringing Artists and presenting Musical Festivals in Bloomington was the need for an adequate auditorium for its growing patronage. The Coliseum was a crude, bare, barn-like building owned and operated by a man, Fred Wolkau, for the purpose of showing Road Theatricals and Troupers. It was used as a Roller Skating Rink on Saturday nights, for money raising country fairs, the yearly Automobile Shows just coming into vogue, and last but not least for the annual McLean County Corn Festival when the building was lavishly covered with ears of McLean County corn from top to bottom and front to rear.

With all its crudities, nevertheless, it offered accoustics unbelievable, and with its crude wooden rafters, all exposed to view, and its accumulated dirt and dust, the Club courageously decided it

offered the opportunity to bring to Bloomington, a greater variety of Concert talent and the necessary seating capacity for 2100 people. So outstanding was this accoustical perfection, almost unparalleled in the whole country, Madam Schuman-Heinke was known to have told a reporter in Los Angeles later that there were only two places with perfect accoustic arrangements in the whole country, one was an old barn in Bloomington, Illinois, and the other the Hollywood Bowl.

The optimism of the Board members, their great enthusiasm and expenditure of time and energy, the helpful solicitation by associate members in the ticket sales and always the response of the patrons made this advance in membership and Concert Programs possible. Many times the Concert Committees took their dust cloths and row by row dusted the entire main floor and balcony seats. Always came the discouraging time to select from one of the horrible stage back drops, a scene of either a village square dance or a virgin forest as the background for some delightful artist. However, all the atrocious crudities could not mar the power to hear and see the Artist from seats in the farthest corners and the audiences were always satisfied.

Many times the roof rattled during a storm, annoying to both the performer and the audience, but any suggestion for repair work or for adequate heat or janitor service was promptly ignored and Mr. Wolkau and his crew had to be patiently dealt with.

Paul Whiteman said after his performance "This building should be preserved forever." Surely the walls of the old Coliseum must echo today at times with the tones of Fritz Kreisler, Galli Curci, Rachmaninoff, Mary Garden, Louise Homer, John McCormack as well as the great Symphony Orchestras of our Country. Indeed the Club was grateful for the opportunities it afforded in spite of its attendant problems.

The most expensive Artist ever presented in Bloomington, from the standpoint of a fee was the popular Irish Tenor, John McCormack. Mr. McCormack's advance manager was anxious to book him in Central Illinois and offered the Club a date in November, 1921, at a fee of $6,000.00. The Club was thrilled at the opportunity and accepted the date providing the fee could be cut to $4,500.00. The offer was acceptable and the Club assumed the risk and task of selling the seating capacity at $2.00 and $3.00 per seat. This concert was outside the Season's course.

May I insert here; because of Bloomington's geographical situation the club had an advantage many times. Chicago and St. Louis were metropolitan musical centers and many artists were booked in both cities. Bloomington was midway and oftimes an Artist could make an appearance here between the booking in those two cities, affording benefit to the managers as well as to our local patrons. The Club was always alert to this opportunity and had profound faith in the response of the community. That has never proven unfounded up to the present time.

John McCormack was accepted at a tremendous fee, but the artist was at the zenith of his career and his popularity was a great inducement

to the Club to present him here as a Box Office attraction. He was a success. In spite of his inebriated condition he appreciated the very enthusiastic audience who was tucked away in every corner of the building and on the state. He wasn't too happy over his dressing room with its odds and ends of past trouper performances that lay in the accumulated dust for many years back stage, and he remarked, "With these unusual accoustics, why do you let people sing in a place like this, it should be fixed up." His tones floated to each person in the audience and he recognized the building's accoustical value.

Outstanding musical events of the pre-World War One era were the Music Festivals, presented for many years in the Spring. Two days of music for capacity audiences closed the Season. Sometimes a Thursday evening Symphony Orchestra program, followed by a Matinee program Friday and closing Concert that evening. Oftimes it was given on Friday night and Saturday afternoon. In this era before the movies and radio broadcasts, audiences were very appreciative of these feasts of music. During those Festivals many of the great symphony orchestras of our land were heard and I remember the Chicago, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Cleveland, Detroit, Cincinnati and St. Paul Orchestras with their great Conductors were heard through the years. With these great orchestras came the privilege to hear many of our local artists and Mrs. Deane Funk, Mr. Lyell Barbour and Miss Evelyn Mayes appeared with them.

All through the years the Club has been mindful of the drawing attraction that a symphony orchestra is, and to the long list of orchestras is added this year, 1950, the Pittsburg Symphony. It is quite an education and a great thrill for an audience to watch the members of an Orchestra take their places and tune their instruments to the infallible Oboe, then the hush and silence for the appearance of the Conductor and his masterful directions through such monumental works as Tschaikowsky, Beethoven, Brahms, Caesar Franck and Bach.

Bloomington audiences are intelligent listeners and have often been complimented by the Conductors and soloists. Through the years, in our own midst, the opportunity of hearing the Symphony Orchestras have been of tremendous value to the students and young people as well as to our patrons of music.

The advancement of musical appreciation courses projected into the Public School System has given the younger generations a great knowledge of symphonic music and the privilege to hear these orchestras has been of paramount value.

The Club very cautiously took a step in a new direction in 1925 when they presented the popular Conductor of Syncopated Music, Paul Whiteman, labeled at that time as the King of Jazz, and his orchestra, for an entertainment before a capacity audience in the Old Coliseum. He presented the movements and cadences that were rapidly becoming a permanent part of American Music.

Syncopation and Sonatas combined in producing a new class of composition and this modern Revue held the delighted audience through Ferde Grofe's Tone Journey "Mississippi" and the trite rythmn of

"I miss my Swiss
My Swiss Miss misses me"

The Program Committee gave sincere consideration to these new forms of art and realized they were blazing the trail by awakening the public to an honest appreciation of their own tastes. It appealed to the young teens and adults alike.

With the Coliseum seating and stage capacity the Club continued at times in this field of entertainment with a variety of entertainments. A Russian Dance Revue called "The Blue Bird", incorporating the well known Cossack Singers, gave a lengthy and extravagant performance which was in later years followed by the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo and later at the Consistory was presented the South American Dance group headed by the late"Argentinita".

The War years found the Club working for the morale of the community. Band Concerts, Community Sings, lead by the combined Choirs of the City, Vesper Services, Organ Recitals, Musicals for Thrift Stamp Teas, Programs for Veterans in Hospitals and Camp Work was carried on valiantly. The work of the Altruistic Committee was outstanding in presenting the best talent to the shut ins in the Hospitals, to Institutions for children and adults, and the aged. It was a worthwhile venture and a part of its routine activity for many years.

The Presentation of the Messiah, the gift expense of Mrs. Hazel Buck Ewing, has been a Yuletide Event for many years. The Philharmonic Chorus and Orchestra with local soloists have presented this lovely Oratorio to capacity audiences under the direction of a local Conductor and the auspices of the Amateur Musical Club.

The sixteen Presidents who have guided the destiny of this organization through its years of achievement have given tireless years of devotion to a great cause. Mention should be made of Miss May Christian's thirteen years of leadership and Mrs. E. W. Oglivee's guidance through some of the Club's most difficult years. The long list of great Artists that have been heard in Bloomington have left a host of glorious memories. The Amateur Musical Club is recognized as one of the most worthy assets of the City and the work which the organization now carries on has long ago surpassed the fondest dreams of its Founders. Bloomington is in good "musical health" and the new frontiers in music are definitely challenged to create a great love for the Music of the Masters.

Music tomorrow will be an edifice built of today's efforts.

MUSIC MUST GO ON.

I was born, reared and have lived my life in McLean County. My mother, Adelaide Stewart Brandicon, was the daughter of Dr. Archibald and Emily Stewart who were the parents of a very musical family. My grandfather's early efforts to promote music in the community of early pioneers at Randolph Grove is well known history.

My mother's love for good music, her inspiration and splendid education led her to teach, not only her own daughters but many young people and adults, along with her home duties. Several very early remembrances stand out clearly. When I was ten years of age, one cold wintry, but beautifully calm evening, I trudged along with mother to Mr. Arthur Bassett's Music Studio on North Main Street, where she played beautifully, Chopin's G maj Nocturne, to this day my favorite of the Nocturnes. From that time on, somehow, I came to realize her devotion and love for the piano. Two years later when my parents decided it was time to own their own home in Bloomington, they purchased the house which the City of Bloomington built and presented to the vonElsner family in recognition of their famous daughter, Marie Litta, then at the heighth of her career. This historic home was a very ordinary story and a half cottage, but the attendant historic value again stimulated our interest and reverenced our love for beautiful music and great Artists.

A neighbor friend who was a small girl at the time Litta was doing her practice singing in this home, told me in recent years, that during her play one morning she called to her mother to come hear a beautiful bird singing nearby. Her mother told her after listening, that Marie Litta was practicing.

I remember the splendid choral work conducted by Mr. Torrens of Chicago when the first civic Choral Group was organized in 1908. I joined this group which was later carried on and conducted by Mr. Chas. Sindlinger and Alfred Hiles Bergen, and no doubt was the nucleas of the present Philharmonic Choral Society. Also I enjoyed singing in chorus parts of several light operas, all directed by Mr. Geo. Herbert and presented at the Grand Opera House by Bloomington's talented singers. However, I spent my study time on piano and organ and over a period of thirty years played in many of the local churches. Since my marriage to Charles H. Snow, of Bloomington, in 1913, I turned my attention more to the home duties and to being Mother to our two sons, Wilbur Deane and Paul Evans Snow.

The most delightful and satisfactory years as well as the most worthwhile efforts of my life, outside of the home, was the twenty years of active service on the Board of Directors of the Amateur Musical Club, in which capacity I served from 1925 - 1945.

Upon removal to the farm with its attendant interests and duties I discontinued all active interest in musical circles, but I am indeed grateful to this organization in its projection of the great art into the lives of its patrons.

THE BLOOMINGTON ANTIQUARIAN CLUB

by

MRS. CHARLES W. REED, MRS. CLIFFORD CRUMBAUGH
AND MRS. OSCAR PHARES

THE BLOOMINGTON ANTIQUARIAN CLUB

By

Mrs. Charles W. Reed, Mrs. Clifford Crumbaugh
and Mrs. Oscar Phares

The Bloomington Antiquarian Club was organized on September 16, 1940, by six women who met at the home of Mrs. Arthur Moore on East Grove Street.

The original plan for the organization as formulated by the organizers, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Charles W. Reed and Mrs. Oscar Phares of LeRoy, was a club to stimulate interest in and to broaden the appreciation of antiques.

The formal organization of the club of 16 Charter Members was completed at the second meeting of the group which was held in November, 1940, at the home of Mrs. Reed on East Jackson Street.

The following officers were elected: Mrs. Arthur Moore, President; Mrs. Arlo Bane, Vice President; Mrs. Clifford

Crumbaugh of LeRoy, Secretary and Treasurer; Mrs. Charles W. Reed, Program Chairman, and Mrs. Herbert Parker, Librarian.

Other members were Mrs. Edith Squier, Mrs. Oscar Phares and Mrs. George Payne of LeRoy; Mrs. Charles F. Short, Jr., Mrs. C. M. Stock; Mrs. Frank Turner; Mrs. Wm. Yates; Mrs. Jack Lewis; Mrs. Carl Behr; and Mrs. Lain Foster.

The third meeting of the club was held at the home of Mrs. Howard Sloan, at which time the name "Antiquarian Club" was formally adopted. It was also voted to hold monthly meetings of the club in the homes of various members, in order that the group might study the collections and individual pieces of the members.

With the advent of the War the members decided to engage in some projects for the benefit of the war effort.

The first of these projects was completed in April of 1941 and consisted of the collecting of magazines, comic books, and phonograph records. This collection, together with a piano, was sent to Bloomington's 108th Quarter Master Corps at Camp Forrest, Nashville, Tennessee.

The second project was an antique and hobby exhibit which was held at the Rogers Hotel for the benefit of the American Red Cross. The theme of the exhibit which was held on February 15 and 16, 1942, was "Attic Antiques and How to Adapt them to Modern Living".

The third project was the contribution of several magazine subscriptions and table model radios for the use of patients in the Army Hospital at Chanute Field at Rantoul.

The fourth war benefit project of the club was a tour of

picturesque Bloomington-Normal Homes, both old and new.

This tour was highly successful and the proceeds were divided between the U.S.O., the Navy Relief Organization, and the purchase of furniture and equipment for two sun porches at the Army Hospital at Chanute Field.

In the spring of 1945, the Antiquarians sponsored a series of three illustrated lectures, which were open to the public, "Natchez, Where the Old South Begins" by Mrs. Balfour Miller; "Williamburg and Old Virginia", by Martin Bovey, and a "Tour Through the Charleston Gardens" by Dudley Craft Watson; all of which were well attended.

The regular program of the Antiquarian Club consists of lessons and displays on antiques and related subjects; an annual luncheon to which each member brings a guest. (A prominent authority on antiques is usually invited to speak at these luncheons); an annual picnic; tours to out of town antique shops and hobby shows.

The membership of the Antiquarian Club is now limited to 24 members, with a sizable waiting list.

Committee for preparation of this report:

Chairman: Mrs. Charles W. Reed
Members: Mrs. Clifford Crumbaugh
Mrs. Oscar Phares

President 1950 - Mrs. Morgan Evans.

THE BLOOMINGTON - NORMAL ART ASSOCIATION

by

MRS. SIMEON CRUMBAUGH

THE BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL ART ASSOCIATION

The present Art Association began at a meeting called on March 14, 1922 in the Russell gallery of the Withers Public Library.

Mrs. Harry L. Fleming called the meeting to order and explained to the group the activities of the Art Department of the Woman's Club, in bringing Art exhibits and lectures to the public. They felt there was sufficient interest to warrant forming a separate organization. This was accomplished and Davis Ewing was elected President, Mrs. Charles R. Fletcher, Secretary. The following persons were the first Directors: Miss Edna Benson. Mrs. Simeon Crumbaugh, Dr. John D. Cunningham, Louis Eddy, Spencer Ewing, E.M. Evans, Miss Clara Ela, Mrs. Grace Wilcox Funk, Mrs. Harry L. Fleming, Rev. Charles Metcalf, Lester Martin, Mrs. Guy McCurdy, Ralph DeMange, Mrs. R.A. Noble, Miss Nellie Parham, Mrs. Julius Griesheim, Miss Julia F. Hodge, Phil R. Hooten, Miss Abbie Reis, Miss Maude Smith, Mrs. John Wight.

The following persons were named honorary Directors. Mrs. J.H. Burnham, Mrs. A.B. Funk, Mrs. C.D. Myers.

In a few weeks the following names were added to the Directory list: Frank Aldrich, Mrs. Virgil Griffin, Mrs. E.P. Sloan, Ralph Spafford, Mrs. Sain Welty. At the end of the first year there were four hundred forty-nine names on the membership list.

Lucy Driscoll from the University of Chicago gave a series of lectures and from the proceeds, the first picture was purchased. "The Old Wharf in Moonlight" by Donald Witherstine.

In the early years Dudley Crafts Watson, came for several lectures. One outstanding one was given with Mr. Eames, pianist

"A Music Symphony on Venice".

Miss Alice Patterson, an I.S.N.U. Faculty member, and a bird authority was chairman of the garden committee, and their activities included field trips, hikes, garden tours and nature study programs. Later, Mr. Will Johnson served as chairman and this department continued to be a very active and interesting one. Flower shows were added later through the leadership of Mrs. William R. Bach.

In 1926 Mr. and Mrs. Louis B. Merwin submitted plans for the Amateur Show. It was in 1928 the first Amateur exhibit was held under the chairmanship of Mrs. Phillip R. Hooten. Several medium have been added to the Class B section of the exhibit and it has continued to be one of the outstanding exhibits of each year. Cash prizes and the Merwin medal, now cast in bronze, goes to the outstanding piece of work in Class A. mediums.

Mrs. George W. Parker, was chairman for some outstanding Arts and Crafts exhibits in the late 20's.

"Silvered Woodlands" by Carlson was next purchased by interested friends of Art and gradually the permanent collection of pictures has grown.

For some years in late 20's and the 30's the local Art Association belonged to the Central Illinois Federation of Art Associations, which at different times included the Associations of University of Illinois, Decatur, Galesburg, Jacksonville, Peoria and Springfield. The purpose was exchange of ideas and information on art programs, and the pro-rating of rentals, cartage and express charges of the exhibits from New York, and Washington D.C. and the West Coast.

One of the outstanding exhibits obtained from the metropolitan Museum of New York by Central Illinois Federation included: two Sir Joshua Reynolds, A Sir Thomas Lawrence, Mary Cassott, and Flemish paintings. Also one outstanding exhibit from Macbeth galleries of New York with the theme of the Dance.

These exhibits have always been free to the public and many times school classes have studies the pictures with their instructors guidance.

In February of 1930 the garden Committee formally withdrew their department from the Bloomington Art Association and formed their own organization as the Garden Club.

The most talked of event in Art Circles in the life of the Art Association was the Central Illinois Art Exposition which was held in the Scottish Rite Temple from March 19th to April 8th in 1939. There were 47 originals including old masters such as Rubens, Rembrandt, Titian, Van Dyck and Frans Hals. More than 50 new works by American contemporary painters. Totaling

about two million dollars worth of paintings borrowed from galleries and private collections all over the country.

The sponsers raised $10,000 to cover first expenses, and some 40,000 persons saw the exhibition, of which 15,000 were school children in carefully arranged and conducted tours. Life and Time gave the exhibit the publicity which it deserved and the Art Association had gained attention of the Art world.

The Junior Art Classes began in 1940 with 24 children from 2nd to 8th grades enrolled. The children each paid a small fee and the association paid the balance of the expense. The sportsmen's club sponsored the project for one year. Since 1946 Mr. Spencer Ewing has sponsored the project. In recent years the class has met at the Art Center through the cooperation of Illinois Wesleyan University and has 25 to 35 members.

In 1941 the Camera Department had developed to sufficient size and interest to withdraw from the Art Association and become a separate organization, the Camera Club.

The gouache show of 31 paintings which was held in 1941 was the first exhibit of that medium to be held anywhere in the United States and gained publicity in Time magazine and Bloomington was referred to as "One of the most art minded towns in the United States."

There have been three Educational Funds established in recent years; a former president offered a fund to enable worthy art students to attend lectures or exhibits outside Bloomington, broadening their education. The second was the W.H. Roland Scholarship award of $115.00 for outstanding amateur art students offered each year at the time of the Annual Amateur Exhibit. The third is the Educational Fund of the Art Association which was started by Mrs. Simeon Crumbaugh and to which interested persons have contributed. This fund is to be used for "the purchase of materials or tuition or both for worthy students." A committee of three persons appointed by the president consult with local teachers before making decisions regarding such worthy students.

The Board of Directors now consists of sixteen members, with members elected for a four year term. The officers being elected from the Board. The Fall and Opening meeting is usually a dinner with a nationally known speaker. The following months until May the monthly exhibits are held at the Russell Art Gallery. Frequently a Tea or Reception follow the gallery talks.

The name was changed in 1948 from the Bloomington Art Association to the Bloomington-Normal Art Association, in recognization of the close working relations of our two towns. The membership dues are the same as first established: Regular membership, $1.00; Patrons, $5.00; Life memberships, $100.00. There are 35 life memberships. These later sums together with several bequests from interested friends form the Trust Funds in the Custody of

three trustees who are elected by the membership for three years. The other moneys received are used for the current programs and expenses.

In 1950 we own 20 pictures in various mediums, some purchased, some received as gifts. The framed etchings on the stair case leading to second floor of the Library and paintings on the walls of the Reading Room. As recently as 1948 - 10 etchings from a gift of 27 were framed and hang in the gallery between loan exhibits.

The presidents who have served the art association from 1922 until 1950 are:

Mr. Davis Ewing	1922-1924
Mrs. Sain Welty	1924-1927
Mrs. Harry L. Fleming	1927-1930
Mr. Spencer Ewing	1930-1934
Mrs. Carl Behr	1934-1937
Mrs. Florence Coulter	1937-1939
Mrs. Simeon Crumbaugh	1939-1940
Mrs. Paul King-	1940-1942
Mrs. C. Carroll Jones	1942-1944
Mrs. Raymond Wakeley	1944-1946
Mrs. William J. Bach	1946-1948
Mrs. Robert P. Whitmer	1948-1949
Mrs. John A. Kinneman	1949-

These records are taken from the records of the Historian and from a brief history compiled in 1948 by Mrs. Robert P. Whitmer.

THE BLOOMINGTON CLUB

THE BLOOMINGTON CLUB

Taken from

The Daily Pantagraph, September 4, 1926

It is not often that an organization may be entitled to credit for erecting buildings of distinction in a city, but the Bloomington club, for nearly 40 years one of the most successful bodies of the kind in the west, can substantiate this claim.

Not only the vine-embowered home that it now occupies at East Washington can be mentioned, but also the Withers library building, long famed as one of the most attractive structures of the kind in Illinois, was due largely to the suggestions and cooperation of the men who launched the former organization.

As the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the Bloomington Club approaches it is timely to recall some of the early history of this association of business men, professional men, farmers, bankers and others who compose the membership.

Credit for the movement belongs to William H. Beaver, a young lawyer, who married Ida Brand, the daughter of the late George Brand, and who later removed to Oklahoma. Mr. Beaver was a newcomer in Bloomington, but along in the fall of 1886 he realized that the city was lacking in a representative club and began to agitate the idea among his friends and associates of the bar. The suggestion met with instant favor and a series of meetings were held, largely in lawyers' offices,

and a search made for suitable rooms. It was difficult to find the ideal and several months went by without reaching a decision.

Fortunately the idea of such a club was broached coincident with a movement to erect a public library building. During the same year the struggling library association, which had occupied quarters on West Monroe street for many years, had been cheered by the donation of a site for a building at the northeast corner of Washington and East streets by the late Mrs. Susan Withers. The association had but limited funds and there did not appear to be much chance of securing more. Plans were drawn for a plain, unattractive building of small size, but for the action of the Bloomington club members, this unpretentious structure would have been built and probably answered its purpose for many years.

Fortunately the club membership worked out a plan of cooperation and tenantry which was submitted to the library board and joyfully accepted. The club agreed to rent the second story of the library, pay ten years' generous rent in advance, and also assist in a campaign for funds to erect a building to cost $40,000.

CLUB RAISES FUNDS

The project went through, the building was erected and when the day of dedication drew near it developed that $6,500 was needed to pay all the bills. Again it was the club membership that rallied behind the library movement, appointed committees, canvassed the city thoroughly and had the pleasure of raising every penny of the money and dedicating the building free of debt.

However the money was raised and the building dedicated on December 27, 1887. In 1894, the library was turned over to the city and the municipality has since owned and operated it.

As the city grew and the library increased in usefulness and the demand for space for books became greater it finally became necessary to ask the Bloomington club to withdraw and secure new quarters, so that the upper floor could be utilized as a reference room and also an art gallery which was provided for in the will of Mrs. N. P. Perry. It included many paintings and other works of art donated by friends of the institution. The membership of the club gracefully yielded to this request and proceeded to erect their own building at the east edge of the Withers tract and public playground. Fifteen years ago the new home was erected, a dignified, substantial structure of three stories, the lower being devoted to the Woman's Exchange cafe and the second and third floors for the club. Now, after 40 years, the Bloomington club is maintaining the great success of its earlier years. The membership contains the finest citizenry

of the community. The rules are the same as when the club was first launched. From the very first the club has not permitted billiard or pool playing, cards or any other game on Sunday. No gambling of any kind is permitted. The Sabbath day has always been rigidly observed as a day of rest. The rooms are open to the members on that day, but for reading and conversational purposes only. Perhaps the club is unique in this respect. There is no desire to be regarded as Puritanical, but the men who were responsible for the founding had the foresight to adopt rules which perhaps have been criticized by some and perhaps have been regarded as radical, but which proved successful in promoting permanency.

Bloomington in its earlier history supported similar organizations, but they all proved insubstantial, simply because the rules first adopted were not enforced. That portion of the membership which favored strict observance of the regulations became disgusted when exceptions were made or violations were winked at.

The Bloomington club faced the same situation at the outset of its career. There were some who were disposed to violate certain provisions of the by-laws, the penalty for which required suspension. These included some of the most prominent and wealthiest members. There was a strong protest by a minority against enforcement, but the majority prevailed and the maintenance of this policy since has had the effect of keeping the Bloomington club upon a sound basis and with an increasing satisfaction for the membership, every person realizing more and more, as the years passed, that the men who laid the foundation built wisely and with keen foresight.

SINKING FUND PROVIDED

A sinking fund was provided at the outset which took care of unexpected items of expense and assisted in the financing. There has been no burden upon the membership, but a moderate rate fixed for dues sufficient to maintain the organization and retire annually certain of the bonds issued to cover the cost of constructing the building. The reading and lounge room, rooms and ball room, are luxuriously and comfortably furnished and invite the members to relax during their leisure hours.

Periodical card and billiard tournaments and social parties are arranged and the functions of the club have long been regarded as the most brilliant of the city, guests frequently including the most prominent residents of Chicago and many other points. All have had reason to compliment the hospitality of the club and the attractive quarters. The equipment has no superior among the clubs of the middle west.

Thomas C. Kerrick was the first president of the club and was honored with the leadership for many years, despite his

protests to be relieved. The oldest member is James Fordice. The present president is Walter Brubaker. E. L. Ives is steward now and has served in that capacity for the past ten years.

After 40 years of usefulness, the Bloomington club membership has reason to feel proud of the great success and the splendid record of achievement that goes to its credit. Few similar organizations can boast so truthfully of its showing in this respect. Few can show the possession of such a notable home. The Bloomington club has carried many distinguished names upon its membership rolls. Nearly all of the foremost citizens of the Evergreen City have been identified. They have been proud to be admitted and the club has been proud to have them.

The Bloomington club of later years has catered more actively to the class of entertainment that appealed to a greater extent to all of the membership and this policy has appeared to be successful. Events that attracted a smaller portion were somewhat curtailed.

A policy which has appeared wise avoided the operation of a cafe as a side line. With most clubs these departments form a liability and are usually operated at a loss. The clubs' arrangement with the Woman's Exchange, being given private quarters, has proven profitable to both and the club has always been assured of an income from this annex rather than a loss.

The members have been fortunate in the personnel of its officers. Men were chosen who agreed to devote their time and best efforts to the welfare of the organization. The proposition was put up squarely to all suggested leaders. If they declined to give the club the attention that was deemed imperative there were other names suggested. As a result every officer who has served the club has labored valiantly and loyally in its behalf and this has redounded to the great success of the organization. The present officers are: President, Walter C. Brubaker; vice president, Adlai H. Rust; secretary, Sage H. Kinnie; treasurer, Harry A. Humes.

BLOOMINGTON CLUB OPENING, 1888

in

Withers Library Building

OPENING OF BLOOMINGTON CLUB
In the Withers Library Building
February 7, 1888

From a Newspaper Clipping

"It is simply grand" was a remark, if heard at the Bloomington club rooms last evening once, it was heard hundreds of times. The club rooms are grand, but not too much so for the class of people who will occupy them, for they deserve the best there is, for its membership is composed of a class of men who represent the business population of a city with an enviable reputation, and these men have made her what she is--the leading city of Central Illinois.

Last evening the one hundred and fifty members were nearly all present, with their wives or lady friends, it being the formal opening of the new rooms. Nothing in particular had been arranged in the way of an entertainment, but it proved entertainment enough for the merry party to enjoy the artistic

decorations and engage in the pleasure of conversation. The toilets displayed were in many cases very charming, and in keeping with the beauty of the surroundings. Orchestra music served to pass the hours away, and the hour of departure, 11 o'clock, soon arrived--almost too soon. It is needless to state that the members are pleased with their new quarters, which are the finest in the State outside of Chicago. The club rooms are reached by a grand stair case which is entered by the main entrance on Washington street. The stairway is of ash, elegantly paneled. This stairway ends in what is known as the reception room. This is of a convenient size and is furnished in California red wood. The floor is of polished marble and black walnut, the walls finished in coloring to match. A large brick mantle and fire place form an attractive feature of the pleasing outlook and comfort of this room. Opening on the west of the reception hall is the main-chamber of assembly room. They are connected with a succession of folding doors. This room is furnished in imitation of birch wood. The walls are finished in imitation of scratched copper. A magnificent fire place is a part of the pleasing features of this room. It is carpeted with a fire moquette carpet. A magnificent chandelier of immense size hangs in the middle of the room. Numerous divans, sofas and chairs complete the furniture of this room. North of these two rooms are three small rooms all fronting on Washington street. Opening off the reception room is the ladies reception and toilet room, adjacent is the center card room, the third and west room is the director's room; these are each connected with folding doors, elegantly draped with portieres. On the north

is located the billiard room, which contains two elegant billiard tables. The room is finished in hard pine. The director's room is neatly finished in imitation of antique oak and with a neat grate is a very cosy and attractive room, as also theladies' reception room. These several rooms are all connected with folding doors and when thrown open as they were on last evening afford the most perfect facilities for entertaining a large assembly.

On the floor of the main room are 180 yards of beautiful Moquette carpeting. In the reception room and ladies' rooms are Wilton rugs, and there is a Wilton carpet in the directors' room. The billiard room is covered with matting and small rugs are on the exposed places. The cost of carpeting the rooms was upward of $500, and the contract fell to Fitzwilliam & Sons.

THE BLOOMINGTON CLUB

LIST OF OFFICERS, STANDING COMMITTEES AND MEMBERS

1889 - 1906

THE BLOOMINGTON CLUB

List of Members - December, 1889

OFFICERS

President, C.P. SOPER; Vice-President, S.W. WADDLE; Secretary, I.P. FELL; Treasurer, J.O. WILLSON; Directors, T.C. KERRICK, GEORGE A. TRYNER, OWEN SCOTT, R.M. DODSON, H.C. RICHARDSON, W.S. HARWOOD.

STANDING COMMITTEES

House Committee, S.W. WADDLE, OWEN SCOTT, R.M. DODSON, I.P. FELL. Finance Committee, T.C. KERRICK; H.C. RICHARDSON, GEORGE TRYNER, W.S. HARWOOD.

LIST OF MEMBERS

ALDRICH, E.H.
BARNARD, FRANK
BRALEY, THEO. A.
BURNS, T.J.
BEAVER, WM. H.
BEMIS, K.J.
BURR, ALONZO
BUNN, FRANK L.
BROWNELL, W.J.
BROWN, R.E.
BURR, C.H.
BEAN, F.M.
BARNES, MONROE
BURNHAM, J.H.
BURLEIGH, W.R.
BAKER, F.R.
BARR, A.J.
BUNN, H.C.
CAPEN, CHAS. L.
COX, GEO. H.
COOK, J.W.
CREBER, W.H.
CAPEN, FRANK C.
CHALLIS, JAMES T.
CAPEN, H.
CHENEY, J.H.
COX, T.J.
DAVIS, GEO. P.
DAVIS, W.O.
DEMANGE, A.E.
DODSON, R.M.
DUKE, BASIL
EVANS, WM. L.
EVANS, J.F.
EVANS, JOHN W.
EDDY, A.S.
EWING, JAMES S.
EVANS, R.F.
EVANS, ROLLA N.
FELL, I.P.

FORDICE, J.M.
FITZWILLIAM, F.J.
FOSSELMAN, E.J.
FIFER, J.W.
FUNK, A.B.
FREEMAN, JULIUS
FUNK, B.F.
FUNK, C.A.
FLEMING, H.M.
FARMER, THOS., JR.
FRISBIE, GEO. R.
FUNK, D.M.
FUNK, DEANE N.
GRIESHEIM, WOLF
GANTZ, E.
GREEN, B.S.
GREEN, H.H.
GRIFFITH, E.U.
GEHLERT, G.B.
GREEN, M.J.
GARRIGUS, J.C.
HEAFER, EDGAR M.
HUMPHREYS, J.F.
HUMPHREYS, H.D.
HENDERSON, FRANK R.
HARBER, ED. D.
HOBLIT, A.B.
HARWOOD, W.S.
HOLDER, DAN
HARWOOD, T.F.
HANNA, G.S.
HOLDER, C.W.
HAWLEY, H.F.
JONES, C.S.
KREITZER, W.H.
KERRICK, T.C.
KERRICK, L.H.
KLEMM, C.W.
KIDDER, C.S.
LEATON, J.H.
LATHAM, C.E.
LIVINGSTON, I.
LOUDON, ROBT.
LOUDON, R.W.
LOUDON, A.K.
LIVINGSTON, AARON
LUCAS, B.D.
MYERS, C.D.
MASON, J.R.
MINER, H.A.
MILLER, GEO. H.
MCLEAN, J.P.
MARQUIS, C.C.
MASON, O.C.
MINER, E.H.
MAXWELL, F.J.
MARMON, W.L.
MCCURDY, H.S.
MARMON, W.W.
NFISON, J.R.
NEWTON, M.H.
OBERKOETTER, F.
PERRY, CHAS. E.
PHILLIPS, I.N.
POPPLE, M.L.
PARRITT, WILLARD
PARMALEE, R.H.
PATTERSON, J.J.
ROGERS, R.C.
ROWELL, J.H.
ROBINSON, J.D.
ROGERS, C.B.
RONEY, JAMES T.
RICHARDSON, H.C.
ROSSNEY, W.E.
ROBINSON, C.W.
SOPER, C.P.
SMITH, DUDLEY M.
STEVENSON, J.C.
SPENCER, H.D.
SNELL, J.T.
SCOTT, OWEN
STEVENS, S.S.
SEIBEL, OTTO
SWAYNE, H.S.
STEVENSON, W.W.
STEVENSON, A.E.
STEERE, E.B.
SWEETZER, A.C.
STARR, R.T.
SIMERAL, GEO.H.
SIMONDS, G.T.
STEVENSON, CHAS. F.
TRYNER, GEO. A.
THORP, E.
THOMPSON, B.R.
TUTTLE, SIDNEY
TROTTER, J.W.
VANSCHOICK, WM.
WHITE, J.L.
WELDON, L.H.
WILLIAMS, R.E.
WAKEFIELD, OSCAR
WADDLE, S.W.
WELDON, M.
WILLSON, J.O.
WILCOX, L.T.
WATERS, ORIN
WELDON, LAWRENCE
WILLIAMS, R.E., JR.

Officers and Directors of the Club

From Its Foundation

1886 - 1887 - 1888

President, T.C. KERRICK; Vice-President, C.P. SOPER; Secretary, I.P. FELL; Treasurer, PETER WHITMER; Directors, W.O. DAVIS, GEORGE A. TRYNER, J.P. SMITH, J.T. SNELL, JAMES B. STEVENSON, W.H. BEAVER.

1888 - 1889

President, T.C. KERRICK; Vice-President, C.P. SOPER; Secretary, I.P. FELL; Treasurer, PETER WHITMER; Directors, W.O. DAVIS, J.T. SNELL, W.T. MONROE, GEO. A. TRYNER, L.H. WELDON, H.C. RICHARDSON.

1889 - 1900

President, C.P. SOPER; Vice-President, S.W. WADDLE: Secretary, I.P. FELL; Treasurer, J.O. WILLSON; Directors, T.C. KERRICK, OWEN SCOTT, W.S. HARWOOD, GEORGE A. TRYNER, R.M. DODSON, Y.C. RICHARDSON.

1890 - 1891

President, I.N. PHILLIPS; Vice-President, C.S.JONES; Secretary, I.P. FELL; Treasurer, A.S.EDDY; Directors, C.D. MYERS, T.A. BRALEY, B.S. GREEN, A.C. SWEETSER, D.M. SMITH, L.T. WILCOX.

1891 - 1892

President, JOHN W. COOK; Vice-President, L.T. WILCOX; Secretary, I.P. FELL; Treasurer, A.S. EDDY; Directors, T.C. KERRICK, C.H. BURR, I.N. PHILLIPS, C.P. SOPER, G.B. HEHLERT, R.E. WILLIAMS, JR.

1892 - 1893

President, C.D. MYERS; Vice-President, L.H. WELDON; Secretary, G.B. GEHLERT; Treasurer, A.S. EDDY; Directors, T.C. KERRICK, C.W. ROBINSON, DEANE N. FUNK, C.P. SOPER, D.M. SMITH, O.T. REEVES, JR.

1893 - 1894

President, C.W. ROBINSON; Vice-President, OWEN SCOTT; Secretary, D.M. SMITH; Treasurer, O.T. REEVES, JR.; Directors, A.B. FUNK; T.C. KERRICK, C.P. SOPER, C.S. KIDDER, R.M. DODSON, GEORGE S. HANNA.

1894 - 1895

President, JOHN E. POLLOCK; Vice-President, C.H. BURR; Secretary, D.M. SMITH; Treasurer, O.T. REEVES, JR.; Directors, A.B. FUNK, A.S. EDDY, E.B. PERRIGO, C.W. ROBINSON, JOHN C. STEVENSON, C.D. MYERS.

1895 - 1896

President, GEORGE S. HANNA; Vice-President, C.H. BURR; Secretary, E.B. PERRIGO; Treasurer, O.T. REEVES, JR.; Directors, C.W. ROBINSON, J.T. HENDERSON, A.B. FUNK, W.H. CREBER, C.M. HARLAN, E.R. MORGAN.

1896 - 1897

President, L.H. WELDON; Vice-President, E.R. MORGAN; Secretary, E.B. PERRIGO; Treasurer, O.T. REEVES, JR.; Directors, A.B. FUNK, C.M. HARLAN, W.H. CREBER, C.W. ROBINSON, C.P. SOPER, GEORGE S. HANNA.

1897 - 1898

President, L.H. WELDON; Vice-President, W.H. CREBER; Secre-

tary, E.B. PERRIGO; Treasurer, O.T. REEVES, JR.; Directors, C.W. ROBINSON; H.O. DAVIS, C.M. HARLAN, D.M. SMITH, W.H. KREITZER, GEORGE S. HANNA.

1898 - 1899

President, E.R. MORGAN; Vice-President, W.H. DREITZER; Secretary, E. B. PERRIGO; Treasurer, S. W. WADDLE; Directors, Louis O. EDDY, OSCAR WAKEFIELD, H.H. GREEN, J.J. COWDEN, FRANK H. FUNK, J.D. TEMPLETON.

1899 - 1900

President, W.H. KREITZER; Vice-President, H.H. GREEN; Secretary, C.H. COOLIDGE; Treasurer, S.W. WADDLE; Directors, D.M. SMITH, W.W. EVANS, A.B. FUNK, M.G. LINN, B.F. HARBER, J.J. COWDEN.

1900 - 1901

President, HAMER H. GREEN; Vice-President, DUDLEY M. SMITH; Treasurer, SAMUEL W. WADDLE; Secretary, CLIFFORD H. COOLIDGE; Directors, JACOB A. BOHRER, ISAAC G. FUNK, SPENCER EWING, CASSIUS M. HARLAN, HERBERT M. KENNEDY, WILLIAM H. KREITZER.

1901 - 1902

President, DUDLEY M. SMITH; Vice-President, CASSIUS M. HARLAN; Treasurer, SAMUEL W. WADDLE; Secretary, CLIFFORD H. COOLIDGE; Directors, WILLIS S. HARWOOD, JACOB A BOHRER, LYLE W. FUNK, HERBERT M. KENNEDY, WILLIAM H. KREITZER, ARTHUR L. PILLSBURY.

1902 - 1903

President, CASSIUS M. HARLAN; Vice-President, HERBERT M. KENNEDY; Treasurer, SAMUEL W. WADDLE; Secretary, CLIFFORD H. COOlidge, Directors, THEO. A BRALEY, HARRY N. WOODS, LYLE W. FUNK, JACOB A. BOHRER, ARTHUR L. PILLSBURY, WILLIAM L. EVANS.

1903 - 1904

President, HERBERT M. KENNEDY; Vice-President, JACOB A. BOHRER; Treasurer, SAMUEL W. WADDLE; Secretary, SPENCER EWING, Resigned Dec. 7, 1903, ROBERT E. WILLIAMS, Elected Dec. 7, 1903; Directors, HARRY B. HARWOOD, HARRY N. WOODS, JOHN D. ROBINSON, LYLE W. FUNK, ARTHUR L. PILLSBURY, XXXX XXXX CLIFFORD H. COOLIDGE.

1904 - 1905

President, HARRY N. WOODS; Vice-President, JACOB A. BOHRER; Treasurer, SAMUEL W. WADDLE; Secretary, ROBERT E. WILLIAMS; Directors, H.M. KENNEDY, DAVID DAVIS, JOHN D. ROBINSON, HARRY B. HARWOOD, ARTHUR L. PILLSBURY, FRANK A. RINEHART.

1905 - 1906

President, THOMAS C. KERRICK; Vice-President, JOHN D. ROBINSON; XXXXXXXXXXXX Treasurer, SAMUEL W. WADDLE; Secretary, ROBERT E. WILLIAMS; Directors, FRANK A. RINEHART, JULIUS FUNK, CHARLES H. BURR, EDWARD R. MORGAN, WILLIAM H. KREITZER, BENJAMIN F. HARBER.

HISTORY OF THE
BLOOMINGTON BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUBS

by

MARY ETHEL SHADE

HISTORY

of the

BLOOMINGTON BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB

History is the telling, historians declare
Of by gone days, but told we'll add, by those who weren't there
Now we'll delve into history, and we do hope they're true -
These facts we'll tell, we got them all from you - and you - and you
But we don't claim perfection, we'll tell you at the start,
Just hope you'll be interested in what we will impart.

The year is nineteen twenty-three. The scene is at the Y
The secretary notes the girls at lunch and wonders why
They sit about in smallish groups - here, and there, and there
This kind of isolationism, she thinks is not quite fair.
Business men are joiners ... Elks, and Lions, and Moose
Kiwanis, too, and Rotary, so what could be the use
Of business girls remaining aloof, unorganized
And so she started planning, but never realized
A Business Woman's Luncheon Club would win such great renown
And grow to be the finest group of women in the town.
Who was this secretary, whose plan it was to make
This glorious beginning? It was MISS LAURA JACKE.

(By - Mrs. Eunice Hendryx)

Yes, it was through the foresight of Miss Laura Jacke, Industrial Secretary of the Y.W.C.A. this organization, early in 1923, began its existence as the BUSINESS WOMEN'S LUNCHEON CLUB, then composed of a group of 20 young women who met once each week for luncheon for the purpose, primarily, of promoting good fellowship among thebusiness women of the city and to help solve each other's problems and become better friends.

The first election of officers was held April 19, 1923 at which election Daisy Chadband became the Club's first president; Edna Givens, vice-president; Mary Selby, secretary-treasurer. The opening meeting was in the form of a banquet with Attorney Wayne Townley, president of the Bloomington Kiwanis Club, as speaker.

In January 1924 Ella Houts became the second president, with Mary Selby, vice-president and Lucille Thompson, secretary-treasurer.

July 1924 Lucile Hardin was elected to serve the club as its third president with Lucille Thompson, vice-president and Helen Marie Roast, secretary-treasurer.

It was in April of 1924 that Helen Marie Roast attended the State Conference of the Illinois Business & Professional Women's Clubs at Danville. Miss Roast reported back with great enthusiasm the benefits of the local group uniting in a broad way with groups of state and national.

As the Luncheon Club grew in numbers, so grew interest in the State and National Federations of Business & Professional Women's Clubs.

The background of the National Federation and the purpose of the organizations was investigated ... the benefits to be derived

by becoming an integral part of the federated groups were likewise studied.

Through this investigation the Bloomington Business Women's Luncheon Club learned, that during World War I the idea of organizing business and professional women of the United States into a federated group originated; that men in practically all businesses and professions could, in an emergency, be reached easily by the Government but that no central organization existed through which the services of women employed in similar ways could be mobilized.

It was learned also that the National Y.W.C.A. grasping the situation, called representative women to a conference in New York City in 1918 to discuss the advisability of establishing a nationwide association of business and professional women. As a result a National Business Women's Committee was created to make a complete survey of the then existing business womens clubs. In February 1919 the committee voted to form in the United States a federation of business and professional women's clubs.

Further it was learned that at St. Louis in July 1919 two hundred representatives of the existing clubs met together and the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, ... an independent organization "non-partisan, non-sectarian, self-supporting and self-governing" ... was organized.

Still further investigation found that in 1921, when the National Federation incorporated, it's objectives were stated as -- "to elevate the standards for women in business and in the professions, - to promote the interests of business and professional women, - to stimulate local and state organizations, - to bring about a spirit of cooperation among the business and professional women of the United States, - to extend opportunities to business and professional women through education along lines of industrial, scientific and vocational activites".

The members of the BLOOMINGTON BUSINESS WOMEN'S LUNCHEON CLUB, convinced that affiliation with business and professional women groups organized with such objectives would give opportunity to work for worthwhile civic projects, to work for legislation for the best interests of business and professional women and participation in a program to raise the standards of education in business, voted unanimously to federate with the National Federation of Business and Professional Women'sClubs.

On the 5th day of June 1925, during the administration of Lucile Hardin the Business Women's Luncheon Club federated with the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, and became the BLOOMINGTON BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB.

Mr. James L. Loar, speaker for the Charter Night Banquet, prophesied for the Bloomington Club a great future in influence for

civic welfare for Bloomington and stressed friendship, fellowship, citizenship, serviceship. The records of the BPW show the prophecy has been and is being met.

The names of 77 members, listed below, appear on the Charter.

Sadie Allen
Hazel Anderson
Mae Augspurger
Grace Austin
Mae Burke
Charlotte Burke
Charlotte Bishop
Frances Briggs
Emma Barker
Ruby Brown
Mae Cooksey
Bernice Clearkin
Alice Collins
Effie Chapman
Rea Corman
Daisy Chadband
Verna Connor
Sara Cook
Frances Carder
Irene Carder
Julia Crosby
Selma Dietrich
Minerva Dooley
Louise Ehemann
Edna Einburn
Frances Fisher
Ruth Felton
Clara Fitman
Edna Givens
Eva Gildner
Mary Gleeson
Helen Hayes
Emily Hemphill
Ella Houts
Lucile Hardin
Josephine Hobart
Melvina Hanson
Beulah Irvin
Ina Irvin
Laura H. Jacke
Mary Jetton
Fern Kates
Beulah Kimes
Anna Lewis
Irene McGuire
L. Ingram Mace
Alice R. Miller
Alice M. Miller
Mildred Melborn
Olive Nance
Tressa O'Neil
Margaret O'Neil
Yarda Pierson
Velda Phares
Dr. Nettie Pritchett
Margaret Ruh
Bertha Ruh
Helen Marie Roast
Mebel Raleigh
Nellie Rinehart
Verna Shelly
Florence Shreve
Edna Stewart
Florence Strohmeier
Maude M. Smith
Maude R. Smith
Leona Sackett
Isla Spence
Elisabeth Skinner
Hazel Smith
Margaret Scholl
Florence Twomey
Fern Van Horn
Estella Wullenwaber
Margaret Wiegand
Stella Whitmore
Frances Young

The fiscal year of the Bloomington Business & Professional Women's Club ends June 30th. New officers enter upon their duties July 1st and continue in office until June 30th, next. Presidents: - Sarah Cook, 1926; Charlotte Bishop, 1927; Bernice Berry, 1928; Lucy Griffith, 1929 and Lillian Johnson,

1930 guided the club in its activities in its infancy.

During these early years welfare was a big feature. Funds were furnished, likewise clothing and food, to worthy families; contributions made to United Welfare Foundation, Salvation Army and especially to the Y.W.C.A. that it might be properly staffed and it's building kept open for the girls of Bloomington-Normal; presented to Western Avenue Community Center a large coffee urn; sponsored a young Bloomington girl who won honors in a national music contest thereby obtaining a scholarship enabling her to continue her education in music to become one of Bloomington's fine violinists.

In June 1930 the club had the unusual distinction of entertaining at its annual meeting the presidents of the International, National and State Federations of Business and Professional Women's Clubs.

Miss Lucile Hardin was again elected president in June 1930; installed into office and served until October 15 that year. July and August being vacation months, Miss Hardin had but little more than one month to serve as leader. After resignation of President Lucile Hardin member interest waned. Without a president and apparently none willing to take over the office November 5, 1930 found 17 members in meeting, discouraged and

ready to give up the Charter. Member Senator Florence Fifer Bohrer in discussion impressed upon the minds of those present so forcibly the importance of business and professional women banding together to keep their place in the business world and of the need in the community for such an organization that all members present resolved to continue as one of the civic groups upon which Bloomington-Normal could depend for help in all projects for the promotion of community betterment.

January 1931 Sadie Allen accepted the presidency and assumed the responsibility of this office. Membership January 1931 was but 29; by the end of the year (June 30) the roster had increased to 64. Miss Allen was re-elected. By the close of the second year, membership had reached a total of 102.

Much credit is due Mrs. Bohrer for her deep interest in the organization and her ability to kindle new enthusiasm in the few remaining members, and to Sadie Allen for her determination to meet the challenge and through her leadership to rebuild an even stronger club for even more effective service.

To facilitate the work of the Club, a board composed of 15 standing committees, 5 officers and a parliamentarian was formed with detailed business conducted by the board and recommendations brought to the membership.

Early in 1931 the club held its first Public Relations Dinner which event became an annual affair.

Serving the Bloomington Business & Professional Women's Club, in addition to those already mentioned -

Presidents: Mary Ethel Shade, 1933-4; Elsie Brenneman, 1935; Mary Gleeson, 1936; Macie Knapp, 1937-8; Mrs. Eleanor Ellis, 1939; Frances Elfstrand, 1940; Mrs. Gertrude Hall, 1941; Fern Van Horn, 1942; Ina D. Miller, 1943; Dr. Marion Pickard, 1944; Mrs. Blanche S. Moore, 1945-46; Elisabeth Stubblefield, 1947-48; Mrs. Inez Hooker, 1949.

Vice-Presidents: Helen Marie Roast, Irene Vogel, Edna Simms, Katharine Mantle, Mary Ethel Shade, Daisy Chadband, Nelle Piercy, Mrs. Grace Bonnett, Yarda Pierson, Fern Van Horn, Mrs. Nelle R. Bonny, Mrs. Laura Lunney, Mildred Lierman, Mrs. Rosie Yarger, Mrs. Elizabeth Forman, Eva Moore, Elizabeth H. Carr, Dr. Anna Keaton.

Secretaries-Treasurers: Irene McGuire, Edna Edinburn, Bernice Clearkin, Martha Wessell, Yula Hankins, Mae Cooksey, Mrs. Margaret Niehaus, Hazel Wright, Irene Vogel, Hazel Rhodes, Estella Wullenwaber, Mary Gleeson, Faye Howe, Sadie Allen, Eleanor Ellis, Beulah Kimes, Charlotte Mantle, Effie Sutton, Hazel Rhodes, Eva Moore, Helen Kelly, Edith Hankins, Ferne Wallace, Hortense Smith, Lucille Horrom, Mrs. Julia Snavely, Hazel Brenneman, Mary Melby, Ella Houts, Mrs. Mae Schalla, Mrs. Verna Bright, Effie M. Shade, Mary Morrow, Mrs.Irene Davis, Mrs. Ruth Moore, Ilo Dillon, Lazetta Rudolph, LillianWilcox, Mrs. Emma Davidson, Virginia Sands, Hazel Brucker, Margaret Schertz, Mrs. Hilda Padgett, Mrs. Grayce Byrns, Mrs. Nellie Moline, Pearl Mauney.

Although only officers names have been listed in this history, each member has been appointed and has served on standing or special committees.

The membership fluctuates - no year since 1931 has the roster carried less than 102, nor more than 190. Over a period ofyears the average paid yearly membership has stood at 150

Activities and services of the local club have been far-reaching. Much philanthropic work has been done, as well as cooperation in all civic activities, such as ...

For - BLOOMINGTON and COMMUNITY -

Cooperated with,

McLean County Tuberculosis Seal Sale and revision of mailing list; Red Cross Mobile Unit; Other civic organizations in unemployment program; in Forum programs in interest of handi-capped children; Amateur Musical Club, Community Players, Philharmonic Society in sale of membership tickets that their fine work might continue; Association of Commerce and McLean County Farm Bureau in endorsement of Beshers Plan for farm relief and Alcoholic Plan for economic relief; Parent Teachers Association and Woman's Club as co-sponsors of public social hygiene lectures; Illinois State Chamber of Commerce to stimulate employment; League of Women Voters in effort to have eating establishments on 100% sanitation basis.

Endorsed two bond issues coming before voters, viz., City Hall Bond Issue - Sewer Improvement Bond Issue. Favored and cooperated in the organization of the McLean County Health Unit and Youth Council. Signed and circulated petitions to help bring to a vote the issue of a Commercial Airport for Bloomington. Cooperated in effort to promote legislation to conserve the city's shade trees.

Sponsor, with one other civic group each year, one speaker to appear at Open Forum. Furnished equipment for Limberlost Camp; moving picture films to McLean County Tuberculosis Sanitorium and material for handwork of the patients. Contributed to American Legion for oxygen tent and to Association of Commerce to assist in bringing two different industrial plants into the city; funds and assistance to Community Athletic Association and to Play School -

The first year of the Good-fellows Fund movement (Christmas Cheer for children of unemployed parents in the community) found the BPW Club purchasing, wrapping and distributing toys, candy and fruit for these little ones who would otherwise have no Christmas in their homes. For many more years this work was done by the club members, with the assistance of the Fire Department and Boy Scouts. The project sponsored by the Daily Pantagraph, the Association of Commerce and the hundreds of good people of this area.

In furthering the civic responsibilities, BPW has contributed funds and services in all community drives.

For - EDUCATION

One of the highest aims of the club is to keep up the high standard of education, not only in Bloomington-Normal schools but among its members. Most club dinner meetings are planned around the advancement of education and in broadening the thinking of its members, and for further educational benefits of members, hold

study groups, book reviews, discussions of current events.

Furnished to libraries of high schools of Bloomington and Normal for use by vocational training students, The Independent Woman (National Federation Magazine) and other vocational training literature; Talking Book Machine for high school Sight Saving Department.

Cooperated with Better Bloomington Citizens Committee in improvement of Bloomington's educational system; contributed funds toward financing of adult education classes. Loans of moneys made to several girls, through Education Fund started in 1931, enabling them to continue or complete college courses. From those so assisted, one became a registered nurse.

For - LEGISLATION

Waited upon Representatives and Senators requesting vote on state child welfare; worked against bill to prohibit married women from employment in Federal government posts on theory that government posts should be filled on basis of merit; backed all legislative bills for betterment of women; worked for election of members to city, county and state posts; studied the many bills of interest to women as presented by Illinois and National Federations of Business and Professional Women's Clubs.

For - ENTERTAINMENT-RECREATION

Organized BPW Melody Girls Chorus, directed over a period of years by Mrs. Lucile Hardin Noon, Madelon Baenziger, Emma Knudson, Mrs. Irma Tunks Wills. Chorus entertained at club dinner

meetings and gave of their time and talent to numerous other groups. Staged card parties, style shows, get-to-gether parties, pageants, plays and minstrels. Furnished entertainment to Western Avenue Community Center, Dwight Veterans Hospital (World War I Veterans).

Bloomington Business & Professional Women's Club, along with business institutions and all other individuals experienced the difficulties of the depression which followed the Post War era of World War I. It was during these times of need for council and active service the Club was so often called upon. Much cooperation was given to other civic organizations and various community groups. On the evening of the declaration of the bank moratorium the second Public Relations Dinner of the Club was held. Loyalty of the membership and members and friends of other civic clubs and organizations was proved by an attendance of 245 at the banquet.

For not only the benefit of the club and its members, but the entire community, speakers and entertainers of national reputation were brought to Bloomington by the BPW Club. It is with pride that the members look on the hours spent preparing for the appearance, and enjoying the contacts and acquaintanceship of Dr. Preston Bradley; Amelia Earhart; Cornelia Otis Skinner; Upton Close; Mrs. Osa Johnson; Dr. Peter Marshall; Alec Templeton; Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady; United States Marine Band; Westminster Choir, and other such prominent persons.

Presented to BPW members and their friends, representatives of International Federation Business & Professional Women's Clubs: -

Miss Lena Madeson Phillips, president and Miss Dorothy Heneker, Geneva, Switzerland, secretary. Miss Phillips has appeared as guest speaker on several occasions.

Of the National Federation: - Miss Adella Prichard, past-president; Miss Marion McClench,president; Mrs. Geline McDonald Bowman, president; MissEmily Kneubuhl, Executive Secretary; Mrs. Rosa Cunningham, Vice-president.

Practically every president of the Illinois Federation has been guest speaker of the Bloomington Club. Numerous other state officers and committee chairmen have visited Bloomington and spoken before the BPW membership.

The ready willingness of these Federations to send to Bloomington such women is indicative of the close harmony with which the local club has and is working with the State, National and International Federations in the furtherance of their work.

World War II brought activities of a far different nature. Dovetailed with regular club operations members kept busy.

Furnished to Chanute Field - Music, 50 pieces dinnerware for hospital ward, games, soap, books, magazines, etc., for invalid soldiers; completely furnished recreation room at Camp Ellis; sent clothing and care packages to one woman in England occupied zone

of Germany. Members contributed to blood bank; assisted Red Cross in preparation of first aid kits; participated in Civilian Defense movement and in annual observance of World Day of Prayer.

Brought Rachel Crothers back to her home city (Bloomington) with a program presented to the community, the proceeds of which went to war relief, viz., contribution toward First Aid Red Cross Station at Bloomington Airport and card tables for Chanute Field.

In 1943 a comedy musical, "Dream of a Clown", was presented with a cast of Bloomington business men. Half of the proceeds went to the Service Men's Center and half to Youth at Play.

For many years National Business Women's Week, in October, has been observed opening with a Club Breakfast on Sunday morning followed by Sunday morning church service at one of the Bloomington or Normal churches. Each day of this week some special activity is presented that the members might re-dedicate themselves to the pledge taken upon acceptance into membership, and that the general public might better understand the purpose of the organization, i.e.,

"To fit itself to assume leadership in thinking on economic problems and their social implications; - to train women to accept their full responsibility as citizens; - to help in the establishment of conditions which assure to women, and to men as well, the fullest opportunity and reward for the development of whatever capacities they may possess and to seek to vitalize the process of democracy that all people may enjoy the basic satisfaction of life in a World at Peace".

May 3-5, 1935 the Bloomington Club was host to the 14th Annual Convention of the Illinois Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs with headquarters at Hotel Illinois, Convention Hall - First Christian Church and "Symposium on Taxation" luncheon - Bloomington Country Club.

Delegates registered - 444. Over 600 delegates, alternates and Bloomington BPW Club members attended the "Round Table" discussion luncheons held at the various hotels.

Complimentary Buffet Supper for all registered delegates, visitors and the 250 members of the American Passion Play cast was given by the Hostess Club at the Scottish Rite Temple. Following the supper a special performance of the American Passion Play was witnessed by 1000 delegates and friends; said to be the largest woman audience ever attending the Passion Play.

The closing banquet, held at the Scottish Rite Temple with more than 1000 in attendance was, to that date, the largest in the history of the State Federation. The Convention Committee brought to this banquet two outstanding nationally known women; Madame Ernestine Schumann-Heink, American Opera and Concert Singer, and Mary Hastings Bradley, lecturer, writer and explorer and hunter of tropic beasts.

State Convention Committee:

General Chairman, Mary Ethel Shade: Co-chairman, Mrs. Mary B. Funk. Committee Chairmen - Yarda Pierson, Hazel Rhodes, Sadie Allen, Effie M. Shade, Mrs. Katharine Mebus, Mrs. Lucile Noon, Mary Gleeson, Mrs. Louie Forman, Mrs. Marian Gill, Mrs. Sally Allen, Macie Knapp, Laura H. Jacke, Mrs. Nellie Bonny, Mrs. Sylvia Caldwell, Lillian Johnson, Estella Wullenwaber, Alice Coupe, Mrs. Emma Davidson, Elizabeth H. Carr, Elsie Brenneman, Lucy Griffith, Jessie Humphrey, Faye Howe.

Serving the Illinois Federation through the years -

As District Chairmen: Charlotte Bishop, Lucy Griffith, Sadie Allen, Mary Gleeson, Mary Ethel Shade, Elsie Brenneman, Fern Van Horn, Dr. Marian Pickard, Mrs. Blanche S. Moore.

As State Chairmen: Mrs. Salley Allen, Transportation; Lucy Griffith, Program; Yarda Pierson, Finance; Mary Ethel Shade, State Convention (1935) and Publications; Elisabeth Stubblefield, Membership.

Special recognition goes to -

Mrs. Florence Fifer Bohrer, State Senator, 17th District. Term of office - 8 years. Mrs. Nellie Bonny, County Probate Clerk. Term of office - 15 years. Mrs. Esther Simkins, appointed December 1949 by Judge of the Probate Court to complete unexpired term of Mrs. Bonny. Mrs. Margaret Zook, City Clerk, elected to office 1949. Mrs. Blanche S. Moore, Director of 1948 March of Dimes Drive.

Twice the Bloomington Business & Professional Women's Club has been unfortunate in that some records of the early years were lost and again in 1939 others were destroyed in the Durley Building fire in which building the club secretary officed.

The Club Collect, written by Miss Mary Stewart of Longmont, Colorado; presented to the National Federation by Miss Stewart in 1920; adopted as the Federation's "code of ethics" to which the members shall endeavor to adhere in their business and professional lives, serves as a guiding hand to the leaders and members of the BLOOMINGTON BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB ... Their Prayer -

"Keep us, Oh God, from pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.
Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking
May we put away all pretense and meet each other face to face - without self-pity and without prejudice.
May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous.
Let us take time for allthings; make us to grow calm, serene, gentle.
Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straightforward, and unafraid.
Grant that we may realize it is the little things that create differences, that in the big things of life we are at one.
And may we strive to touch and to know the great, common woman's heart of us all, and, oh, Lord God, let us forget not to be kind".

. . .

And, - the BLOOMINGTON BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB continues to make history as the year 1950 begins with -

Mrs. Irene Davis, President; Mrs. Irene Kennel, Vice-president; Marguerite Zehnpfund, Corresponding Secretary; Ruth Bragonier, Recording Secretary; Reba Williams, Treasurer.

Facts compiled by Mary Ethel Shade
With apologies for omissions or errors.
Dated - February 20, 1950
Bloomington, Illinois

Mary Ethel Shade - youngest of three daughters of John Henry and Anna Catherine (Sheets) Shade; born Odell, Illinois; moved to Bloomington when a child; attended Bloomington grade and Bloomington highschools; studied for a few years, piano music and dramatics.

Entered the business world as stenographer for J. E. Will Furniture Company; spent four years as secretary-office manager of the Mc Lean County Farm Bureau; one year in Chicago with Homestead (agricultural) Films, Inc., - returned to Bloomington in 1923, affiliated immediately with Association of Commerce of Bloomington as Stenographer-bookkeeper, took over duties of office manager and later named, by Board of Directors, Assistant Secretary.

BLOOMINGTON CAMERA CLUB

by

Mrs. F. E. Fuller

BLOOMINGTON CAMERA CLUB--JANUARY 1, 1950

by

Mrs. F. E. Fuller

The local Camera Club was organized in 1934 as a department of the Bloomington-Normal Art Association, George W. Parker and Frank E. Fuller being the promoters. After three years with the Art Association, the Camera Club decided to go by themselves but with both organizations in harmonious relationship.

For the past 12 years, the club has held an annual salon of photography, having had a number of world leaders as salon judges and pictorialists, including such names as Harry Shigeta of Chicago, the late "Jack" Peabody, Anne Pilger Dewey, Jean Elwell of Detroit, and Paul Pratte of St. Louis.

These annual salons bring camera enthusiasts from about twenty cities from over the state, many of whom bring prints for exhibition and to view the work of others.

During the past six years, four of the local club members have advanced in the salon world, namely, Mrs. Harold Medbery of Armington with her color photography, Joseph Ensenberger,

Mrs. Ruth and Frank Fuller of Bloomington. In 1949 the American Photographic Society in convention honored Mrs. Medbery and Frank Fuller with the title, A. P. S. A.

The club has maintained a membership of about 60 persons. The following have served as president of the group; George W. Parker, F. E. Fuller, Alfred Brunk, William Rayburn, George Davis, Joseph Ensenberger, William Klingburg, Walter Martin, Cecil Adams, Harold Goodwin, John Scharnhorst, and Andrew Hauptman.

THE COMMUNITY PLAYERS

by

Grace Kessler Green

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By

Grace Kessler Green

It was on the 6th of March, 1923, that Bloomington's first little theater performance was given at Old Turner Hall. Like many other valuable contributions to civic life, this movement was launched by the Woman's Club. It quickly grew into the organization known as the Community Players, the chosen name indicating that the primary purpose was to bring the theater to the people rather than to develop a small art group. Those were the days of the silent motion picture, when the spoken word and the real presence of the actor had all but vanished in the small cities like Bloomington and Normal, and the theater lovers here gave generously of their time and talents to keep the curtain from falling permanently on the legitimate stage.

Many will remember the opening night when MRS. JULIUS GRIESHEIM, the president of the Woman's Club, welcomed a packed house to "Overtones," a one-act play by Gertrude Gerstenburg, the players' premier performance. It was directed by GRACE ARLINGTON OWEN of the Stage Dept. of Illinois State Normal University. Miss Owen was one of the most capable of those indefatigable workers among the Players. The leading role was played by WINNIFRED KATES JAMES, head of the Dramatic Dept. of Illinois Wesleyan University, whose leadership and enthusiasm made many a successful performance. GRACE GREEN, LOUIS ELLIOT KUHN AND LUCY PARKE WILLIAMS were other members of this all-star cast. That evening, after the play the permanent

organization, the "Players," was effected with a membership of 150.

In July of 1923, in the lovely gardens at the home of Mr. and Mrs. WM. BACH, before an enthusiastic audience of three hundred, were given the first two plays under the name of the COMMUNITY PLAYERS: "Glory of the Morning," and "The Man Who Married a Dumb Wife," directed by WINNIFRED KATES JAMES and GRACE ARLINGTON OWEN, were interpreted by an able cast including MRS. J. W. BIRNEY, MISS MILDRED BROWN, MISS LENA MCFEE, L. M. CROSTHWAITE, VICTOR ZIMMERMAN, DR. RICHARD McLEAN, MRS. FRANCIS ALDRICH, MRS. MONROE DODGE, FRED HITCH, C. F. SCHOLER, MARTIN HOMUTH, HAROLD SAURER, ROSS SCHWARZMAN and DONALD INGERSOLL.

From this happy beginning the COMMUNITY PLAYERS have presented twenty-one seasons of full length and one-act plays. They moved from Eagles Hall to the larger auditoriums at the Bloomington High School, Illinois Wesleyan and Normal Universities and in 1927 to the Illini Theatre, the old playhouse that Bloomingtonians lovingly remember because in it Modjeska, Ethel Barrymore, Maude Adams, David Warfield, John Drew, Margaret Illington and a host of world famous actors had their enters and their exits.

Sir Arthur W. Pimero's great play, "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray," was the Players' first performance in a professional appearance and it has gone down in our history as worthy at the Illinois record of success. MISS ETHEL A. GUNN was the director and MARY BELL SLOAN and EDWARD DAVIDSON played the leads. This play was the first performance which the Players repeated: First in Bloomington as a Red Cross benefit for the Flood Relief, and the following week in Springfield under the auspices of the Community Players of that city.

For the next five seasons all of the plays were given at the Illini Theatre with real professional finish under the direction of ETHEL A. GUNN, LEWIS C. STEVENSON and FRANK VERNOR.

In April, 1933, the Players went back to Old Turner Hall to celebrate their Tenth anniversary with Lord Dunsany's famous comedy "If."

Since that date most of the plays have been produced at the Majestic Theatre and more recently at the Scottish Rite temple, to accommodate the crowds. The membership grew from 150 to 900. The largest membership was achieved by the untiring efforts of MR. and MRS. EDWARD DAVIDSON and MR. and MRS. WALTON ISCH. The Players at this time became a real part of the social life of Bloomington and Normal. They have always been open to everyone who likes to act and to experience the relaxation and psychological benefit of being some-one else and thereby forgetting his grim and insistent self.

Behind every actor who experiences the thrill of footlights, curtain calls and applause, are at least four tireless workers who are necessary to put on a successful show... the board who selects the plays...the ticket committee...the costume committee...the properties committee...the make-up artists...the ushers...and the mainspring of the whole, the Director. "The Play Is the Thing," is the motto which for two decades has inspired these unsung toilers to weeks of hard work toward a successful performance.

REMEMBER WAY BACK WHEN---

We enjoyed JOSEPHINE MERWIN'S delightful acting against the beautiful outdoor setting of MRS. HAZLE EWING'S court at Sunset Hill?....MISS FREDA GRENDING (now MRS. DELMAR FREY) took the difficult task of committing in one day the heavy lead in the "Youngest" when an accident made it impossible for MISS DOROTHY GARRETT to give the second night's performance?.. RUTH HEFFERNAN and WALTON ISCH in the tavern scene in the first act of "Anna Christie?".....Will you ever forget "Fashion" or "Life in New York," the sensational success of 1845, when the program was a yard long, the audience hissed, shouted and candy and popcorn were sold in the aisles?..... The beautiful lawn party at the home of MRS. FRANK FUNK?.... EULA BROWN O'NEAL in "The Doll's House"?.... And remember, "The Three Wise Fools," RALPH BENJAMIN, FOREST WATT and DR. RALPH LOAR?.... The pompous self-made man "Big Hearted Herbert," better known to us as the late DR. RICHARD McLEAN, a veteran of many Community Plays?.... Remember AL BROWN as that ball-of-fire "Lightnin'"....And wheel-chair's-got-me, CHAL TAYLOR, as the irascible "Man Who Came to Dinner"?....Remember DON GLASGOW as the misused husband in "The Little Foxes"?.... We hope you can forget Boris Karlof CLINT HUGHES in "Arsenic and Old Lace" and the balmy old aunts, MILDRED BROWN and COLENE HOOSE.

Since the Players' first president, CARL VROOMAN, there have been 16 presidents guiding the destiny of the Community Players: LEWIS G. STEVENSON, DAVIS EWING, RUTH HEFFERNAN, EDWARD DAVIDSON, ENID TAYLOR, MRS. HAL M. STONE, JOSEPH HANNIE, MRS. HARRY RIDDLE, CLYDE NOBLE, MRS. DeWITT WING, DR. RALPH LOAR: RUTH JAEGER, WALTON ISCH, WILLIAM BACH, MADRIGALE McKEEVER, MRS. GENE FUNK, JR., and HAROLD BENDER.

BLOOMINGTON KIWANIS CLUB

by

Frank Cavender, Kaywin Kennedy, Clyde S. Kensinger

BLOOMINGTON KIWANIS CLUB

By

Frank Cavender, Kaywin Kennedy, Clyde S. Kensinger

It was January, 1921, when a few members of the Peoria, Illinois Kiwanis Club visited Bloomington and met with a group of business and professional men of the city at the Women's Exchange, relative to organizing a Kiwanis Club in Bloomington. The following men from Bloomington attended the meeting: C. Roy Atkinson, Harry W. Benson, C. W. Frey, W. P. Garretson, Kaywin Kennedy, E. P. Krum, James L. Loar, Rev. Frank A. McCarty, Dr. E. P. Sloan, William J. Tuohy and Dr. C. P. Hanson.

When it was decided by this group to accept the sponsorship of the Peoria Kiwanis Club, an organization meeting was held at which time, Dr. C. P. Hanson was elected to act as temporary chairman and Kaywin Kennedy temporary secretary. The temporary organization continued weekly meetings at the Woman's Exchange during the spring and summer of 1921, and acquiring members for the club, as Kiwanis International would not grant a charter for less than fifty members. By November, 1921, the membership had grown to seventy-three. By this time permanent officers had been elected as follows: W. A. L. Beyer, President; James L. Loar, Vice-President; Harry Humes, Treasurer; S. J. Curlee, Assisant Treasurer; Kaywin Kennedy, Secretary; Dr. C. P. Hanson, District Trustee. The board of directors were: C. Roy Atkinson, W. A. Garretson, C. W. Frey, E. P. Krum, G. F. Cavender, John W. Moore and Dr. J. S. Reece.

On November 14, 1921, the Bloomington Kiwanis Club held the charter meeting and banquet at the Illinois Hotel, attended by three hundred Kiwanians and wives from Central Illinois. Fred C. W. Parker, Kiwanis International Secretary, delivered the principal address and the charter was presented by Kiwanian George A. Shurtleff of Peoria, Illinois, then Governor of the Illinois, Eastern Iowa district. Charter members still active in the Bloomington Kiwanis Club are: Kaywin Kennedy, Guy C. Palmer and G. F. Cavender.

During the year, 1922, the Bloomington Kiwanis Club sponsored new clubs at Clinton and Pontiac, Illinois and later sponsored the Farmer City and LeRoy clubs. They also assisted in sponsoring the El Paso, Illinois club.

In the year 1923, the club built a boy scout cabin at Forest Park and for several years sponsored a Kiwanis Chautauqua on the campus of Illinois Wesleyan University.

In the year of 1927, the Bloomington Lions Club merged with the Bloomington Kiwanis Club, increasing the Kiwanis membership to over one hundred. Since that time a new Lions Club has been re-organized and is now a very active club.

In the year 1932, the Bloomington Kiwanis Club, entertained the Illinois, Eastern Iowa district convention which was largely attended, and was said to be one of the finest conventions up to that time.

A number of members of the Bloomington Kiwanis Club have held high office in our district and Division. In the year of 1928, Kaywin Kennedy served as Governor of the Illinois, Eastern Iowa district. Others who have served as Lt. Governors are: James G. Gray, J. Oscar Hall, Harry H. Rodgers, P. C. Somerville, Clyde F. Kensinger and Kaywin Kennedy also served as Lt. Governor in the year, 1924.

The Bloomington Kiwanis Club is proud to have among its membership a number of members who are holding high positions in our community and state:

Dr. Merrill J. Holmes - President of Illinois Wesleyan University.

Henry Clay Tate - Editor of the Daily Pantagraph

O. Lloyd Welsh - President of the Association of Commerce.

Harold Walters - Role of Christus in the nationally famous Passion Play of the Bloomington Consistory.

Wayne C. Townley - President of the Illinois State Historical Society.

George Carruthers - Head of the Local Red Cross

Ralph Arends - County Superintendent of Schools.

Kaywin Kennedy - Past District Governor of Kiwanis, Past President of Illinois State Bar Association, Past Commander of the American Legion, Past President of the Bloomington Board of Education.

Paul Funk - of the nationally recognized Hybred Seed Company, known as the Funk Bros. Seed Company.

Curtiss Gilberts - Sheriff of McLean County.

Hollis O. Frey - with his Kiwanis Saftey Committee, has gained State recognition in Auto Saftey Travel.

P. C. Kurtz - Principal of the Bloomington High School, one of the largest high schools in Illinois.

Walter Meers - One of the most successful agricultrists in America.

J. H. Parsons - Vice-President of the State Farm Insurance Company, with state prominence in municipal tree saving legislation.

George Wetzel - Head of the Illinois Power Company in Bloomington and surrounding territory.

Perry C. La Bounty - Advertising Manager of the Daily Pantagraph.

Arthur W. Tompkins - Vice-President and Superintendent of agents for the State Farm Mutual Insurance Company, the largest automobile insurance company in the world.

P. C. Somerville- - Lecturer of National reputation and executive of one of the largest masonic consistories, the Bloomington Consistory.

George Curtiss - Head of one of the largest Farm Service Companies in America, the McLean County Service Company.

Frank Breen - Developed the Western Avenue Community Church and Center; general director of East Bay Camp at Lake Bloomington; helped organize Limberlost Camp for under-privileged children; furthered many outstanding programs in his community beyond the ordinary work of a minister.

Russell J. Laible - Manager of Sales Promotion of Funk Bros. Seed Company.

Harry Swift - Business Manager of Radio Station, W.J.B.C.

Franklin Botu - Captain of the Salvation Army.

Harold Bejcek - Executive Sectretary, Community ?Chest.

John Hundman - Boy Scout Executive.

Malcolm Whipple - Assistant Farm Advisor.

Kenneth Burgland - Commercial Photographer

Harold Goodwin - Manager Field Seed Division.

Harold Gibson - Director of Bureau of Appointments.

Richard Long - Sales Manager American Foundry.

PAST PRESIDENTS

1921 - W. A. L. Beyer
1922 - W. A. L. Beyer
1923 - Kaywin Kennedy
1924 - S. J. Curlee
1925 - C. Roy Atkinson
1926 - H. B. Patton
1927 - A. F. Caldwell
1928 - Al A. Ulbrich
1929 - L. Cullen Hunt
1930 - Dr. D. D. Raber
1931 - Ed L. Henniger
1932 - Perry J. La Bounty
1933 - James G. Gray
1934 - George H. Wetzel
1935 - Richard F. Stockton
1936 - J. Oscar Hall
1937 - Harry H. Rodgers
1938 - P. C. Somerville
1939 - William F. Beadles
1940 - G. F. Cavender
1941 - Porter C. Noble
1942 - Chris E. Harpster
1943 - Clyde F. Kensinger
1944 - Chas E. Decker
1945 - Bert H. Pickard
1946 - Walter Stiegelmeier
1947 - N. Eric Bell
1948 - Harold Walters
1949 - O. Lloyd Welsh
1950 - James H. Parsons

LIMBERLOST CAMP

The Limberlost Camp sponsored by the Bloomington Kiwanis Club has a long and enviable record. For twenty years it has been the mecca for sixteen days for 100 to 115 underprivileged children each year. It has developed from the crude habitat to a modern camp with modern accomodations and a trained staff.

HOW CHILDREN ARE PICKED

Each year in May, Clyde Kensinger, its director, calls a dinner meeting with all of the school principals in Bloomington and Normal, seventeen schools in all, including his adult staff and the Kiwanis committee. After explaining to the principals the object of the camp, its program and potential possibilities, each school is given ten cards. On one side of the card the teacher fills out such information as the child's name, his or her parent's name, occupation, religious faith, age and what the teacher thinks the camp can do to aid the child in school, also what special abilities the child possesses, etc.

The reverse side of the card is filled out by the camp director and counselors after camp is over. Shown, in detail, the child's attitude toward camp, his counselor and toward other children. Also offer suggestions to teacher what the school might do to correct some retarded feature in the child and other recommendations.

The doctor's certificate is the child's passage on the busses. Each child receives a physical examination and this card must accompany the child to camp. Also this card bears instructions to parents, what the child is to bring and informing the parents that they must not visit camp or send candy, gum or money. If so the child is sent home.

NOW THE BIG DAY

The counselors and staff go to camp at noon the day before the children. There are the Junior Counselors, five boys and five girls. Each counselor is assigned his cabin, opens supplies, etc., and when the busses arrive the next day, the children are briefed and then each counselor received ten campers.

The counselors are trained during the winter months at the home of the director, who has meetings in his recreation room, where each days program is outlined for the entire season.

Before World War #2 college students were used as Junior Counselors, but during the war these young men and women were either in the armed service or some war industry and they were not available.

The Kensingers struck upon the idea of using boys and girls, who have had at least two years camping experience with him at Limberlost and demonstrated leadership ability and it is amazing how these youngsters assumed the responsibility of caring for kiddies only a year or two younger than themselves.

ELECTION

After the third day in camp the big election takes place. Each group of ten elects an alderman.

The entire camp elects a mayor, city clerk, police magistrate, at their first meeting. The mayor appoints a Chief of Police and a City Attorney, which is confirmed by the council. Thus, the City of Limberlost is incorporated and a full corps of city officials take over.

This is done for two reasons, first it teaches the kiddies real citizenship, secondly it gives them a sense of responsibility and that the adult staff is not running the camp.

If a child is picked up by the camp police for some infraction of the rules, the camper must sweep the long stone steps or pick up paper for several days as a penalty.

The campers arise at 7:30 A.M. - beds are left unmade until after breakfast - teeth are washed and setting up exercises are executed then to breakfast in a large dining hall across the lagoon.

Professional dieticians prepair the meals and plenty of whole milk and dairy products are included in the diet along with meat and vegetables.

The children are weighed upon entering camp and a record is kept at the end of the first week and when they leave camp sixteen days later. The majority of these children gain from three to eleven pounds during the sixteen day period.

After breakfast, they meet in the heart of the City of Limberlost for a flag raising ceremony and after proper respects are paid to the flag, they return to their cabins for cleanup time. The beds are neatly done in hospital manner and each cabin strives to win the prize for the neatest cabin of the day.

ACTIVITIES

Two periods of swimming and boating are scheduled at regular intervals along with the finest handicraft program to be found in the country. Nature study, hikes, citizenship and various competitive sports are included in the cirriculum.

The first night in camp, the Indian Chief comes down the lake in a canoe and the kids follow him to the big teepee (which is a little theatre) and tokens and letters from the campers the previous year are read to the new campers. The last day in camp, these new campers will search the woods for

tokens such as hornet's nests, wasp's nests, shells and such other articles to be left as tokens to the camp the following year.

Each night in the teepee entertainment is furnished, mostly by the children, to make their own program. Some evening motion pictures and outside entertainment is brought in, but this is a rare occasion as the director wishes for the children to furnish their own entertainment. This gives them a feeling of confidence in their own abilities and teaches the child to think and talk while on his feet. On Saturday nights one half of the camp entertains the other half with a stunt show. Tumbling and gymnastics are special features taught to the kiddies while at camp.

KIWANIS NIGHT

At a specified evening, the Kiwanians and their ladies visit the camp for the evening meal and usually these children sit with the Kiwanians. Our guests inspect the camp and view the handicraft work and after a swimming and diving exhibition the children put on a forty-five minute program in the teepee starting at 8:15 p.m. Each year approximately fifteen of these children obtain the Junior Life Saving badges for passing all of the necessary requirements to receive this honor.

CHURCH SERVICES

Church services are held in the teepee Sunday morning. A choir is formed and children are trained as ushers. Following their short Sunday morning routine, the kiddies dress and go to church in a body. The catholic children are taken to Bloomington for their services. The teepee is always filled with children and adults from other camping areas to hear the director give his Sunday morning sermon. To many of our kiddies has been their first experience in a religious meeting and the director could tell you many interesting events which has eminated from these little services.

We who have been closely connected with Limberlost for ten or more years, are in position to determine the results of this camp. Many of the youngsters, ten or twelve years ago at the camp are now holding responsible positions in our community. They often drop in the office to see Pop Kensinger and talk over old times at the Camp.

Pop is a Past Lt. Governor and now Secretary of the Bloomington Club.

With his wife known as Mon, they have been camp director and camp mother for the past seven years and as Pop puts it "If we can keep these kids happy, cause them to go straight and become good citizens, his life is worth living after all."

1950 - MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Karl F. Adams -	Farm Manager
Oscar C. Anderson -	Chadband's Jewelry Store
Ralph Arends -	County Sup't. of Schools
Oren Ashworth -	General Agent, G.M. & O. R.R.
Edgar Atherton -	Minister Wesley Methodist Church
C. H. Baumgart -	Lumber and Coal dealer
Wm. F. Beadles -	Professor, Illinois Wesleyan University
Eric N. Bell -	State Director, State Farm Insurance Companies
Walter C. Benson -	Co-Owner of Benson Realty Company
Don Bolinger -	Sales Manager, Paxton Typewriter Company
Harold W. Brazelton -	Co-Owner and Manager Normal Sanitary Dairy
Frank Breen -	Director Community Center
Fred W. Buelow -	General Insurance
George Carruthers -	Head of Local Red Cross
G. F. Cavender -	City Real Estate, Hamson-Ryan Realty Company
Henry Charles -	Professor of Voice, Illinois Wesleyan University
E. W. Chrisman -	Dentist
F. S. Cook -	Wholesale Fruits and Vegetables, Grover C. Helm Co.
Charles W. Crain -	Florist, George A. Washburn & Sons.
George Curtiss-	Manager of the McLean County Service Company, one of the largest service companies in America
Benjamin A. Danforth -	Real Estate Manager
Charles Decker -	Division Director of Education, Illinois State Normal University
John F. Dickinson -	General Counsel, Union Auto Indemity Company
Harry Dowell -	Life Insurance
Delbert Downs -	Manager Gibraltar Sales Service

Dwight R. Drexler -	Professor of Music, Illinois Wesleyan University
Lawernce J. East -	Superintendent of Illinois Soldier's and Sailor's Children's School
Leslie M. Ernst. -	Co-Owner, W.H. roland Store
H. L. Etes -	District Manager, Illinois Telephone Company
Ferd A. Flinspach -	Funeral Director, Flinspach-Kurth Company
Russell F. Foster -	Manager, Public Assistant Office
Hollis O. Frey -	C. W. Frey and Sons.
Paul Funk -	Funk Bros. Seed Company
P. S. Garber -	Retired Farmer
John W. Geske -	Gas and Oil Dealer
Roger S. Getty -	Corn Belt Bank
Curtis Gilberts -	Sheriff of McLean County
Earl Greiner -	Office Equipment and supplies, Pantagraph, Printing and Stationery Co.
Ray Guthoff -	Secretary of Bloomington Production Credit Association.
John Guy -	Dean of Men, Illinois Wesleyan University
F. H. Hafer -	Manager, Corn Belt Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Oscar J. Hall -	Attorney
H. A. Harris -	Supervisor, G.M.& O. Railroad office
L. D. Hendricks -	Farm Insurance
Vaughn Herrin -	Administrator Brokaw Hospital
Merrill J. Holmes-	President, Illinois Wesleyan University
Jack Horenberger -	Athletic Director, Illinois Wesleyan University
O. J. Jarrett -	Retired Dentist
David Jenkins -	Surgeon
Wm. L. Johnson -	Dental Surgeon
Rolla Jones -	Police Magistrate

Louis Josephson -	Rabbi, Moses Montefiore Temple
Kaywin Kennedy -	Attorney
Clyde F. Kensinger -	County Recorder
W. T. Klooz -	Plant Superintendent, Gas Company
Clifton P. Kurtz -	Principal, Bloomington High School
Perry J. Labounty -	Manager advertising, The Daily Pantagraph
Walter Lasser -	Retail music.
Russell J. Laible -	Funk Bros., Seed Co.
Arthur Larsen -	Dean, Illinois State Normal University
Kenneth Marshall -	Captain Salvation Army
William J. Meara -	Attorney
Walter Meers -	Agriculturist
Fred J. Melvin -	District Superintendent Methodist Church
Earl Miller -	Miller's Hatchery and Farm Store
Paul H. Mills -	Manager Sherman-Williams Paint Company
Henry Niersteimer -	Grocer
A. G. Orendorff -	Dental Surgeon
Guy L. Palmer -	Insurance Auto adjuster Union Auto Insurance Co.
James H. Parsons -	Vice President, Co-Ordination, State Farm Insurance Companies
Bane C. Pierce -	Auditor
Robert C. Perry -	Vice-President and Actuary State Farm Insurance Companies
Herman Perschall -	Stock Raiser
Bert H. Pickard -	Chiropractor
Howard J. Read -	Book and Stationery Dealer, W.B. Read & Co.
Edward L. Robertson -	Retired
Harry H. Rodgers -	Owner, Rodgers Shoe Co.
Richard Ross -	Traffic Manager, Illinois Telephone Company

Harold L. Shinall -	Physician and Surgeon
Wilfred N. Singley Jr. -	Optometrist
P. C. Somerville -	Secretary, Bllomington Consistory and Lecturer.
Milton Staff -	Assistant to Vice-President Cureka-Williams Corp.
Walter Stiegelmeier -	Secretary-Treasurer, Industrial Casuality Co.
Harlan J. Stoltz -	Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co.
Richard I. Stone -	Minister, Park Methodist Church
H. W. Stuber -	Purchasing Agent, Portable Elevator Mfg. Co.
Louis J. Sutter -	Bloomington Prod. Cr. Assn.
Harry Talley -	Township Supervisor and Overseer
Henry Clay Tate -	Editor, The Daily Pantagraph
Arthur Tipton -	Paper Broker
A. W. Tompkins -	Agency Vice-President, State Farm Insurance Companies
Wayne C. Townley -	Attorney
Al. A. Ulbrich -	Co-owner, Ulbrich and Kraft Clothiers
Bjarne Ullsvak -	Administrative assistant to President Illinois State Normal University
Harold D. Walters -	General Insurance
O. Lloyd Welsh -	Lumber Dealer
George Wetzel -	Manager Power and Sales, Illinois Power Co.
James Wollrab -	Attorney
Louis E. Wollrab -	Funeral Director, Beck Memorial Home
Harold F. Yost -	Union Auto Insurance Co.
William Zaiss -	District Manager Leath & Co.
Harry Swift -	
Harold Bejcek-	Executive Secretary McLean County Community Chest
John Hundman -	Boy Scout Executive
Malcom Whipple -	Assistant McLean County Farm Adviser

Kenneth Burgland -	Photographer
Harold Gibson -	Director of Bureau of Appointments. Illinois State Normal University
Harold Goodwin -	Manager Field Seed Division, Funk Bros. Co.
Richard Long -	Sales Manager, American Foundry

THE "PALLADEN" AND "HISTORY AND ART" CLUBS

by

Grace Cheney Wight

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Although the History and Art Club is the oldest club to have been in continuous existence since its organization, it is not the first study club to have been formed in Bloomington.

A group of "ladies", as they were known in that day, called the Palladen Club, antedated them by several years.

Unfortunately the Palladen Club left no records behind them. The exact date of their organization is not known nor just when they disbanded. It is probable that the club was organized in 1875 or 6, and that it ceased to exist in 1883 or 4.

The most tangible proof of its existence is a booklet of study topics which bears on the cover the title, "The Palladen Study Topics for 1880-1-2-3-". It is to be regretted that the pamphlet gives no list of members. It is to be found in the Withers Library. Some years ago a partial list was given the writer by Mrs. B. D. Lucas, a daughter of Mrs. Samuel W. Waddle, who was a member. All are now gone who could have given any information in regard to this club.

Its membership was composed of some of the brightest and most studious women in Bloomington. Among them were: Mrs. Judge Lawrence Weldon, Mrs. Charles Robinson, Mrs. Milner, Miss Angie Milner, Mrs. Samuel W. Waddle, Mrs. Lucia Lufkin, Miss Bernadine Orme, (later Mrs. Col. D. C. Smith) Mrs. Joseph

W. Fifer, Mrs. James S. Ewing, Mrs. N. P. Perry (founder of the Russell Art Gallery) and Mrs. A. B. Funk.

A number of these ladies after the Palladen disbanded were invited to become members of the History and Art Club.

The topics of study referred to in the pamphlet issued by the Palladen Club for 1880-2-3, show the serious purpose of its members.

The first six weeks of 1880 were given over to a study of Mohammedanism and the rest of the year to the Middle Ages. Three topics were listed for each afternoon. In 1881-2, England from the Britons to the beginning of the Fifteenth Century was assigned for the first half of the year, and the History, Literature and Art of Europe, during the Fifteenth Century, for the second half. For 1882-3 European History, Literature and Art of the Sixteenth Century, previous to the Elizabethan Era and the Political History of the Elizabethan Era.

As another proof of the existence of the Palladen Club the minutes of the History and Art Club for March 15th, 1882, contain an account of a joint meeting of a committee appointed from the Palladen Club and the History and Art Club, held at the home of Mrs. Judge Lawrence Weldon to form plans for the entertainment of the Central Illinois Art Union to be held in Bloomington that year.

That there were three other literary societies in Bloomington at that time is indicated by a motion made by Mrs. Fifer at this meeting that "they be invited to participate in the pleasures of the occasion."

The records of the History and Art Club are in existence and are continuous from the formation of the Club in March 1879 to the present time with the exception of the war years when the Club temporarily disbanded.

The meeting for organization was held at the home of Mrs. T.J. Cox which was then in what was called "Eagle Block". It was a sumptious apartment on the second floor, with the entrance stairway on Washington Street back of the building now known as McLellan's on the corner of Main and Washington Streets.

The first regular meeting was held on March 20th., with Mrs. John Humphreys in the old Dr. Rogers home in the 300 block on East Washington Street.

The charter members were: Mrs. Hudson Burr, Miss Emma Burr, Mrs. J.H. Cheney, Mrs. T.J. Cox, Mrs. Sue M. Fry, Mrs. Laura Harpole, Miss Alice Harpole, Mrs. Laura Humphreys,

Mrs. Edwin C. Hyde, Miss Laura Maxwell, Mrs. H. C. Provost, Miss Sue Reed, Miss Julia Reed, Mrs. M. T. Scott, Mrs. A. E. Stevenson and Miss Sue Winston.

Two generations have passed since the organization of this club, the third is now occupying the stage and the fourth coming on. Since we are so soon forgotten it might not be amiss to give a few notes in regard to the personnel of the charter members of the History and Art Club.

Miss Emma Burr later became Mrs. Clinton P. Soper. The Burr and Soper families are too well known in Bloomington to need further mention.

Mr. T.J. Cox and Mr. George Cox, brothers, who came in an early day to Bloomington from Maine, were prominent business men in the 1880's. The late Mrs. Charles H. Burr, at one time a member of the History and Art Club was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T.J. Cox

Mrs. Sue M. D. Fry was for many years professor of belles-lettres at the Illinois Wesleyan. She was president of the History and Art Club for twelve years and a leader in their studies.

Mrs. Laura Harpole came to Bloomington with her husband, Mr. Pete Harpole and three little girls from South Charleston, Ohio. Mr. Harpole's death occurred soon after. Their home was on the N. W. corner of Locust and McLean Streets, now the home of Mr. Lon Kerrick. Miss Alice Harpole was the eldest daughter. She later became Mrs. T. C. Kerrick. The second daughter, Miss Nellie Harpole was the wife of Mr. C. C. Marquis.

Mrs. Laura Humphreys was the wife of Mr. John Humphreys and the mother of Mr. Howard Humphreys, a well known business man.

Mrs. E. C. Hyde, was the wife of Mr. Edwin C. Hyde, a merchant tailor in early Bloomington. His place of business was at the N. E. corner of Main and Washington streets. Before the days of the Bloomington Club, his store with its plate glass windows reaching to the floor on two sides, offered a good place of vantage for the business men on the east side who liked to walk down town on Saturday evenings. Mr. Hyde was a pillar of the Grace Methodist church.

Mrs. Laura Maxwell and Mrs. H. C. Provost, who was also a Maxwell, were members of the prominent family who conducted the Maxwell Book and Wallpaper Store on Jefferson street next to "Adam's Ark", which is now the location of the Corn Belt Bank. They later moved to Chicago and one brother went to New York where they continued the wallpaper business and prospered.

Miss Sue Reed and Miss Julia Reed were daughters of Col. John C. Reed, who conducted a china store on the south side of the square for many years. Their family home was on East Chestnut street, on the lot where Mr. Edward Kirkpatrick's home now stands.

Mrs. M. T. Scott and Mrs. Adlai Stevenson need no introduction. They are on the list of our most distinguished citizens.

Miss Sue Winston was a cousin of Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Stevenson and made her home with Mrs. Scott.

During the seventy years of its existence, the studies of the History and Art Club have covered a wide range of topics. First printed program was for the year 1882-3. It is as ambitious in scope as the program of the Palladen Club for the years 1880-1-2-3.

It begins with the first century of the Christian Era and continues through the Tenth Century. An entire century is assigned for one topic. The History of Mohammedanism follows, the History of the Christian Church, the Middle Ages, the History of the Eastern Empire, the History of Germany through the reign of Henry II, the History of France to the Capetian Line, the History of England to the Norman conquest and the beginning of Modern Literature.

Carried along with these historical topics are art topics for each day of meeting comprising: Etruscan and Greek Art among the Romans, Roman Architecture, Roman Sculpture, the Catacombs and Christian Cemeteries of Rome, Roman Paintings and Mosaics as revealed by ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum, Early Christian Architecture, Christian Painting in the West, Christian Architecture, Christian Painting in the West, Christian Sculpture, Byzantine Architecture, Byzantine Painting, Saracenic Architecture, Byzantine and Romanesque Architecture, Sculpture and Painting, Symbolism in Art and ancient Myths which have been illustrated in Art.

Certainly the Palladen Club was outdone, since the History and Art Club covered more ground in one year than the Palladen had outlined for three. The surprising thing is that the History and Art did not become extinct in 1883 instead of the Palladen.

The program for the next year, 1883-4, is missing from the files. It would be interesting to know what was next attempted. But in 1884-5 they are still blithely going on with the history of the world.

In 1904 the Club celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary. For that occasion Miss Alice Harpole wrote a resume of the history of the Club from its organization. She

said in part:

"To one looking over the subject matter of our twenty-five annual programs, they show that we have entered every civilized country on the globe...But I feel sure that our time has not been wasted nor our efforts fruitless, for is there a member of this Club present today, who if she were called upon could not turn to Egypt - our first country studied - and call by name all the Ptolomies and the Mrs. Ptolomies? Could she not tell the names of all the rulers of all the lands which we have studied, with the date of birth and death of each ruler? Could she not recite the names of all the Popes from St. Peter to Pius X?...Is there a lady here who is not perfectly familiar with all the great creations in the Art World? Is there one present who would not know a Titian or a Tintoretto from a Montgomery corn picture?"

The History and Art Club started on its second quarter of a century with undiminished energy. More time was given to general subjects and to literature than to history. In order to hold its title to being an Art club as well as a History club, Italian Art was the subject of study for one year.

For six years, beginning with the season 1926-7 and extending through 1932-3, the Club devoted one day a month to the Florence Fifer Bohrer Club which was conducted by our distinguished member- at that time State Senator Florence Fifer Bohrer.

Article II of the Constitution of the History and Art Club states the object of the Society shall be "Social and Mental" culture. So far we have been considering the progress made in mental culture but the founding "mothers" saw fit to place the word "social" before the word "mental" in the constitution.

Every meeting of the Club was an opportunity for social enjoyment but there were some outstanding social occasions that deserve special mention. One of these was the celebration of the twentieth anniversary on Friday, March 17, 1899, held at the home of Col. and Mrs. D. C. Smith of Normal. Mrs. Smith who was president of the Club at that time, invited the members to take lunch with her on that day. There were additional guests and the newspaper account states that "thirty-six guests partook of the elegant repast of seven courses." Mrs. Smith was the toast mistress. Mrs. J.H. Cheney responded to the toast "Our Charter Members" Mrs. C. P. Soper to our "Club Members" and Col. Smith to the "Model Club Husband".

On Oct. 3, 1902, Mrs. James Wilcox, who was then president invited the members of the Club to take luncheon with her. The subject of study for the day was Norway. The

luncheon was preceded by a Norwegian Smorgasbord, at that time something of a novelty. Norwegian food predominated at the luncheon that followed and the colors of Norway were used in decoration.

Mrs. C. P. Soper entertained the members with a luncheon upon the occasion of the Club's twenty-fifth anniversary, March 19, 1904. A special program had been arranged consisting of a paper by Mrs. Col. D. C. Smith on the Hall of Fame. This was followed by a parody written by Mrs. J. H. Cheney in verse, referring to the Club and entitled "They ought to have a tablet in the Hall of Fame". It was sung by Mrs. Bohrer. Miss Alice Harpole read a brief history of the organization from its beginning which was humorous and delightful.

Another occasion in the annals of the Club which was memorable, was on Feb. 22, 1929, when Mrs. Lillard was hostess for luncheon and Mr. Lillard read a carefully prepared and scholarly paper on George Washington. The American was very much in evidence as decoration: one floating in the breeze from a flag staff in the grounds to the north, visible from the dining room and another very beautiful one to be seen through an opening into the library.

The years had been slipping by and on May 20th, 1929, the fiftieth anniversary of the Club was celebrated with an elaborate luncheon at the home of Mrs. C. P. Soper, one of our most devoted and loyal members. The house was a bower of flowers: beautiful tulips and lilacs brought from the gardens of the president, Mrs. Smith, yellow roses in profusion sent by Miss Letitia Stevenson in memory of her mother and aunt, Mrs. M. T. Scottand, many other flowers, offerings from Club members.

The program consisted of the singing to the tune of America, an original poem composed by Mrs. Soper and dedicated to the Club. The singing was led by Mrs. Bohrer and Mrs. Wight with Mrs. Fifer at the piano. Mrs. Cheney spoke briefly of the "Pioneers" and Mrs. Fifer read a condensed report from the records of the club, called "Fifty Years in Thirty Minutes". Mrs. Cheney and Mrs. Soper represented the charter members.

The "mother-daughter" tradition has always been strong in the History and Art Club from the beginning when the "daughters" were represented by Miss Emma Burr and Miss Alice Harpole. Later Miss Fannie Cheney was invited to join the Club and at her untimely death in 1890 her sister, Miss Grace Cheney, was asked to take her place. Miss Florence Bohrer was the next daughter to become a member followed by Miss Letitia Stevenson and Miss Charlotte Capen.

The Fiftieth Anniversary Mrs. Soper made a motion that Miss Getrude Bohrer, Mrs. Lucy Soper Lane and Miss

Mary Duke Wight be chosen members of the Club thus incorporating the third generation in three families - that of Mrs. Fifer, Mrs. Soper and Mrs. Cheney. The motion was carried and they were duly elected.

Time moves on. On January 21, 1950, the seventieth anniversary of the History and Art Club was celebrated in the Memorial building of the Illinois Wesleyan. The last two charter members were missing, Mrs. Soper and Mrs. Cheney. Mrs. Bohrer and Mrs. Wight have taken their places as the two who have held the longest membership in the Club. Their reminiscences formed the program.

The mother-daughter tradition in the Club has now expanded into the Club grand-daughters and there is one member who is a Club great-grand-daughter.

Mrs. Harry Harwood is a great grand-daughter of Mrs. Hudson Burr, one of the founders of the Club and the grand-daughter of another charter member, Mrs. C. P. Soper.

Mrs. Darwin Rust is the grand-daughter of Mrs. Joseph W. Fifer.

Mrs. Alonzo Dolan is the grand-daughter of Mrs. S. Hoblit.

The older members of the Club are very happy to commit its fortunes into their hands and into those of other young members equally gifted, feeling sure they will not only carry on the traditions of the Club but improve upon them.

THE BLOOMINGTON - NORMAL QUILL CLUB

by

EUNICE CASSIDY HENDRYX

THE BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL QUILL CLUB

by

Eunice Cassidy Hendryx

Among the names of Bloomington's famous sons and daughters is that of Elizabeth Irons Folsom, author of two novels, FREE and MAD RAPTURE, and scores of short stories which appeared in McCalls, Good Housekeeping, American Mercury, Sunset, and other popular magazines. Before taking up writing as a vocation, Mrs. Folsom served as court reporter for the PANTAGRAPH for seventeen years. After resigning from the staff of the newspaper she moved to New York City where she would be close to writers' markets.

Mrs. Folsom returned to Bloomington for a short visit in the summer of 1928 and at the suggestion of several friends planned to conduct a course in fiction writing. A modest add in the PANTAGRAPH, exploring the possibility of interesting a small group in such a venture, brought surprising results. The course attracted more aspiring writers than could be accomodated in one class and it became necessary to hold both a morning and an evening class.

Old and young, male and female, clerks, housewives, secretaries, and professional people -- including a minister -- flocked to the classes. They were taught that a short story, to be saleable, must first catch the reader's eye with an intriguing title, snare his interest with a strong narrative hook, carry him along with the hero over apparently unsurmountable obstacles to a breath-taking climax, and leave him completely satisfied with a perfect denouement. If the student didn't learn this technique, the fault was his own for Elizabeth Irons Folsom knew her subject as her own stories indubitably proved.

Mrs. Folsom's classes were held in the committee room of the Withers Library whose staff was then, and has ever continued to be, most gracious and helpful. The PANTAGRAPH cooperated and encouraged the would-be writers by offering to publish in the Sunday edition, for a number of weeks, the best short stories written by members of the class. What a thrill it was for those of us who were fortunate enough to see our brain children in print. The five dollar award was duly appreciated also. One of the stories, "Of Such is the Kingdom," written by Mrs. Wylie R. Dimmett, not only rated publication in the newspaper but also was illustrated with a lovely picture of the Transfiguration.

When the course ended and our teacher left, some of our group decided to carry on by meeting every Friday evening to read and criticise one another's work. After several meetings we decided to organize and to call our organization the Elizabeth Irons Folsom Club.

We started with quite a number, but one by one members were stricken with a fatal malady, rejectionitis, usually brought on by premature exposure of one's manuscript to an editor, and characterized by a small formal rejection slip attached to the upper right hand corner. Only the hardiest resorted to the bitter tonic, revision, and were revived by the hypnotic influence of an occasional acceptance.

Among those who were members of Mrs. Folsom's class and who continued to work and meet together after her departure were: Louise Kessler, Helen Diggin, Hazel Funk (now Mrs. H. W. Holmes), Margaret O'Malley (now Mrs. Orville Young), Mrs. Grace Jewett Austin, Catherine Cowles, Virginia McNutt (now Mrs. D. C. Northrop), Mrs. Wylie R. Dimmett, Mrs. Alma Shierbaum, Laura Belle Sageser, Mary Funk (Mrs. F. H.), Maude Lemen, Reba M. Stevens (Mrs. B.L.) and Eunice Hendryx (Mrs. O.G.).

As members of the group began to place their stories and poems in various publications, others became interested. There were no requirements for membership other than a desire to write -- not for one's personal

satisfaction alone, but for publication. Mrs. Folsom had instilled in us the desire to have our writing stand upon its merit -- no vanity publishing.

New members attracted to our group in the early 1930's included: Bess Hibarger, Marion Curry (Mrs. L.B.), Ruth Moore (Mrs. Louis), Alice Genevieve White, Mrs. Willian Hubbard, Kathleen Donelson (Mrs. Frank), L. Maude Sutton, LaVerne Best (Mrs. Edgar), Madrigale Maconaghie (now Mrs. Wm. McKeever), Maude M. Wood (Mrs. L. S.), Inez Jenkins (Mrs. Harlan), Mabel Niedermeyer (now Mrs. Clayton McCaw), Mary Louise Brennan, Mrs. Annabel Carey, and Inez Bunn (Mrs. Soule).

In the fall of 1931 we decided to secure a teacher to give us regular lessons, assignments and individual criticism. Professor Palmer of the Illinois State Normal University was recommended as an instructor to "lecture this group on the technique of the short story, the essay or play, and criticise manuscripts submitted." Entering into this contract made it necessary for us to draw up a set of by-laws and rules for membership. We adopted "Quill Club" as our official name and elected Eunice Hendryx, president; Helen Diggin, secretary-treasurer. Active membership, which entitled the holder to present manuscripts for criticism, cost fifty cents per week during Professor Palmer's course.

In the summer of 1932, three members of the Quill Club, Mrs. Funk, Mabel Niedermeyer, and Eunice Hendryx attended the Boulder Writer's Conference at the University of Colorado. Upon their return Mabel shared her notes on juvenile writing with members of the club and Eunice Hendryx gave hers on writing adult fiction. Sharing these lessons was not only greatly appreciated by the group, especially the newer members who had not had the benefit of Mrs. Folsom's instruction, but was also excellent review for those who attended the conference.

Early in its history the Quill Club sought to inspire and encourage poets in the community. Largely through the careful planning and clever ideas of Louise Kessler, a number of poetry contests were sponsored by the Club. The first poetry contest was held in 1934 and was announced following a program of published original stories and verse presented in Fellowship Hall of the First Christian Church. This program was the first one presented by the Quill Club and brought much favorable comment. The program was as follows:

Quill Club History — Eunice Cassidy Hendryx

"An English Garden"
"Mariana" - Italian Folk Song — Clara Louise Kessler
Sung by LeRue Trio
Mrs. Clifford Long, Soprano — Mrs. R.Ramseyer, Contralto
Mrs. Porter Phillips, Mezzo — Mrs. Harold Sauer, Accompanist

A Group of Children's Poems — Mabel Niedermeyer

"Peace" - An Essay
"Memorial Day" - a Poem — Mrs. Wylie R. Dimmett

"Lend Me Thy Strength" - Bach Chorale — Clara Louise Kessler

A Group of Poems — L. Maude Sutton
Read by Mrs. Louis Moore

"The Easter Egg Mystery" Story in Rhyme — Eunice C. Hendryx
Told by Billy Bringham

"Seven in the Morning" Story — Marian Stearns Curry

"Stale" Poem — LaVerne M. Best

"The White Rabbit" from Alice in Wonderland Suite
Music by Edgar Stillman Kelley - Lyric by
Clara Louise Kessler

"Dr. Sarah Jane" Juvenile Story — Mabel Niedermeyer

A Group of Adult Poems — Marian Stearns Curry

"Applause" Short-short Story — Eunice Cassidy Hendryx

Announcement of Poetry Writing Contest — Helen Diggin

The prize winning poems in this first contest were: "If This Be Poetry" by Reba Mahan Stevens, first place; "Worship" by Bertha Dawson, second place; and "Spenser" by Alice Genevieve White, third place. Mrs. Stevens' poem was later published in the Christian Science Monitor.

Growth in membership, interest, and number of original stories presented at each meeting for criticism demanded a longer session than was possible at the Library since the building closed at nine o'clock. Through the courtesy of the First Christian Church where one of our members, Mabel Niedermeyer, was Director of Religious Education, we were priviledged to meet in the church office where we could stay as late as we wished.

In 1934 a group interested in the "Little Theater" organized and called themselves the "Playcrafters." They met and staged their plays in the basement of the Unitarian Church. Several members of the Quill Club became charter members of this new organization which offered excellent opportunity for those eager to try their skill in playwriting. A one-act play "Handpicked" by Mrs. Wylie R. Dimmett was produced by the Playcrafters for one of their regular programs and also as a part of a Pen Women program in 1934. That same year "Without First Aid" by Eunice Hendryx was also produced and was later published. "Frog Skin Lining" by Ruth Moore and "Pot Liquor" by Kathleen Donelson were two very clever plays produced by the group.

Louise Kessler's play "Her Glove" won first place in the 1935 Playcrafters contest; "A Stranger Within the Gates" by Eunice Hendryx won second place; and "Six Characters in Search of a Prompter" by Dale Etter placed third.

It was through the Playcrafters that the Quill Club attracted two young men into their group, Jack Rossiter and Dale Etter.

In the fall of 1935 ten members of the Quill Club arranged for a class with Sewell Peasley Wright, noted author of short stories, in Springfield. We drove down in two cars, leaving Bloomington at about five-thirty

in order to get to the class at seven-thirty. We left Springfield at ten o'clock and usually got back to Bloomington at midnight. The instruction we received from S.P., as Mr. Wright chose to be called, was most interesting and practical, in fact, the best we have ever been able to secure. We did not mind the long drive for we enjoyed the opportunity to talk over assignments.

Although neither of our two new male members had a car, their company helped bolster our courage against the possibility of engine or tire trouble. Fortunately, we were not bothered with either. The eight women making up the class were: Marian Curry, Willian Hubbard, Virginia McNutt, LaVerne Best, Maude Wood, Bess Hibarger, Alice Genevieve White and Eunice Hendryx.

During the time since our first organizing, several of our group succeeded in having a sufficient number of stories, articles, or poems published to qualify for membership in the National League of American Pen Women, an organization of professional writers. Louise Kessler, Hazel Funk and Reba Mahan Stevens were charter members of the Springfield (now Central Illinois) Branch, of the National League, which was organized in 1928. Mary Funk, who had belonged to the league in New York, transferred her membership to the local branch. Eunice Hendryx, Marian Curry, Mabel Niedermeyer and Willian Hubbard met the qualifications of the league soon afterward and were accepted into membership.

As the group worked and studied together more members' stories and poems appeared in numberous publications. The Quill Club found itself assuming the role of a training school for future Pen Women.

On Sunday afternoon, November 22, 1936, a program for a Pen Women meeting was presented in the Playcrafters little theater. The program included two original plays: "Man About the House, a comedy by Marian Curry which was later published; and "The Unfinished Symphony" by Eunice Hendryx. The latter had won second place in a nation-wide contest of the National League of American Pen Women. Between the two plays original music was presented, with the lyrics written by Louise Kessler, music by Francis Kessler. The titles were "When Grandmother Danced the Minuet" and "Music."

The club conducted another poetry contest in 1937 and made a small booklet of the best poems submitted, together with the prize poems of the earlier contest.. Mabel Niedermeyer won first place with a poem entitled "Life's Lovely Things", James L. Jackson won second place with "To M", and Reba Mahan Stevens won third place with "Pattern for a Housewife."

Members joining the club during the 1940's included Helen Strimple Hansen (Mrs. Birger), Helen Adams (Mrs. Karl), Nellie Deffenbaugh (Mrs. Ross), Hannah Osner, Bertha Hudelson (Mrs. C. W.), Grace Shea, Grace Hughes (Mrs. Fred), Ona Lathrop (Mrs. H.O.), Dr. Ethel Burner,

Marcia Custer (Mrs. E. F.), Elma Knotts (Mrs. D. F.) Helen Churchill (Mrs. F. M.), Ina Scharfenberg (Mrs. A.H.), Dorothy Helm (Mrs. C.F.), Mary Jane Rust (Mrs. F.H.), Lucile Chiddix (Mrs. J.C.), Edith Squier (Mrs.H.L.), Madge Adams (Mrs. W.B.), Velma Thomas (Mrs.John), Mildred Weakley (Mrs. James), Margaret Tenney (Mrs. Paul) and Marian Teal (Mrs. Ray).

The Midwestern Writer's Conference at Northwestern University in the summer of 1945 attracted Mabel Niedermeyer and Eunice Hendryx where they spent a most interesting and profitable two weeks. Mrs. Hendryx won first prize for a radio play "A Gift for the Goddess", which was entered in one of the contests. They returned so inspired by the conference that in the summer of 1946 Bess Hibarger, Bertha Hudelson, Helen Adams and Eunice Hendryx attended the conference which had moved to Chicago. In the 1948 and 1949 Midwestern Writer's Conferences Louise Kessler won second and third prizes in juvenile short story contests.

During the years most of the members have had short stories, articles, or poems appearing quite regularly in numerous publications. Several members have book length manuscripts published. Mabel Niedermeyer's first book, "Then I Think of God" is in its fifth printing and has been translated into Spanish. She has followed this book with four others: My Indian Picture Story Book, My Story About

the Bible, This is God's World and Some Time Every Day.

Bess Hibarger's first book Secrets of Mother Nature was written on assignment of her publishers who gave her 12 color pictures -- animals, plants and even superstitions -- around each of which she was to weave her stories. The black and white sketches for the book were made by another member of the Quill Club, Helen Strimple Hansen. A second book length manuscript of Bess Hibarger's was accepted for publication, but unfortunately, acceptance of the book coincided with Pearl Harbor and publication was withheld. The manuscript is now in the process of revision.

The club members have had the enjoyable privilege of hearing and criticising chapter by chapter two other book length manuscripts that are in search of a publisher. Inez Parkay has a fascinating autobiography, A Nickel's Worth of Gingersnaps, which we hope some publisher will accept because of the fact that it is unusual. At present we feel that it has not been accepted because it is unusual. kKathleen Donelson has done a great amount of research in writing Pilgrim no Longer which we hope will find a publisher soon.

Helen Adams who has perhaps written more adult poetry than any other member has had 220 acceptance -- poetry, juvenile and adult short stories -- in numerous magazines including the Saturday Evening Post and Country Gentleman.

Clever poems by Lucile Chiddix and by Catherine Cowles have appeared in a number of children's magazines.

Marcia Custer's column, "The Garden Forum", appears regularly in the Normalite. She has given many talks on gardening, flower arrangements, etc.

Eunice Hendryx has had a number of articles, stories and poems in various magazines, including an article in the Christian Science Monitor and light verse in the Saturday Evening Post. Three of her one-act plays have also been published.

Articles written by Bess Hibarger have appeared in forty-seven magazines, including Unity, Your Life, Coronet, Pageant, and Christian Science Monitor.

While most of Bertha Hudelson's writing has been in the juvenile field, she has also written many stories and poems for adults. During the past year her work has appeared in seventeen different publications, including an adult story in Magnificat.

Grace Hughes, who is an expert in making something from nothing and in putting her ideas into clever verse or how-to-do articles also gives interesting and instructive talks on her various hobbies. An original poem by Mrs. Hughes, "Hobby Ridden", appeared in a recent issue of the McLean County Farm and Home Bureau News. Her character, portrait, and historical dolls, particularly those made from cured apples, are fascinating. She has an order for one of these dolls to be sent to England.

One of the charter members of the club, Clara Louise Kessler, has had over one hundred song lyrics published, including fifty incorporated in the World of School Music Song Books, published by Ginn & Co., also a number of lyrics and librettos set to music by Joseph Clokey and Edgar Stillman Kelley. Numerous stories, poems, plays and operettas have been published in St. Nicholas, Christian Science Monitor, Child Life, and other magazines. She has written articles for professional journals and edited the Children's Page of the Pantagraph for four years. A story in Child Life appeared in the recent book A Treasury of Good Night Stories, published by the Hart Publishing Co.

Ona Lathrop's writing has been entirely in the field of adult stories and poems, a number of which have been publsihed. During 1949 she had eight adult stories published, four of these appearing in the American Family.

Ruth Moore has of late turned her talents more to book reviews and travel talks, however, she has a novel in mind and some of it on paper.

Although most of Grace Shea's writings have been clever juvenile verses, she has had an article in the I.S.N.U. Bulletin and is writing a series of stories in which she is making use of her background as a nurse.

Edith Squier's column, "Much Ado About Nothing", which appears regularly in the LeRoy Journal was awarded first place by the Illinois Press Association in 1949 for

the best original column in newspapers of towns under 10,000 in population. Four Children's Day Exercises were recently accepted by the D.C.Cook Company.

Undoubtedly other members of the group who have not had as much published as those listed have had enough encouragement to keep them interested and to convince them that writing is a highly enjoyable avocation.

The most outstanding success attained by a member of the Quill Club was the acceptance of Marion Teal's book The Earth is Ours for publication by the Crowell Publishing Company. Our club had the good fortune to hear the original story, chapter by chapter, as it was being written and to offer suggestions and criticism.

On March 25, 1948, the club sponsored a dinner honoring Marian's success. The several hundred guests who attended had the opportunity to hear the publisher, Robert L. Crowell, give some interesting inside glimpses into the publishing world. The appropriate, though unusual, table decorations brought many compliments. Grace Hughes made clever dolls representing various characters of the story. A particularly fascinating one represented Ray Teal asleep in an old-fashioned rocker holding a baby pig and nursing bottle. Paper cutouts of the many farm animals that play an important part in the story paraded the length of the tables. A replica of the publisher himself, seated in a swivel chair at a miniature desk loaded with manuscripts bearing the names of Quill Club members so captivated Mr. Crowell that he sent it home to his wife.

One of the special guests at the dinner, Mr. Elmo Scott Watson, of the Medill School of Journalism, announced the First Annual Corn Belt Writers' Conference sponsored by Illinois Wesleyan University and the Daily Pantagraph with the cooperation of the Bloomington-Normal Quill Club, the League of American Pen Women, Withers Library and Radio Station WJBC.

Several members of the Quill Club attended this first local conference in 1948, also the second conference in 1949.

For a number of years our meetings were held in the homes of members and we enjoyed one another's hospitality. But since our meeting together is for a definite purpose, we have all felt that two evenings a month, of about three hours each, is little enough time for reading and criticism. We all have full time jobs in or away from our homes, or both, and our spare time between meetings can be used asrenjoyably and more profitably in writing than in making preparations to entertain our group.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Karl Adams our club enjoys the privilege of using his office rooms at 506 East Locust Street for meetings. The location is ideal. We couldn't wish for better facilities and we feel greatly indebted to Mr. Adams.

IN MEMORIAM

We have lost two of our members by death in the past two years. Mrs. Grace Jewett Austin, one of our charter members, and one of our most talented, died on Mrs. Austin served on the staff of The Daily Pantagraph for a number of years. Her column "Dame Fashion" was syndicated and appeared in newspaper throughout the country. She was the author of many lovely poems and of several plays.

Mrs. Nellie Deffenbaugh passed away on June 12, 1948. Through the production of many original skits Mrs. Deffenbaugh brought pleasure to local audiences. Listening to her read her clever stories was a real delight for members of our club. We regret that Nellie Deffenbaugh did not have the thrill of seeing her stories in print, but we are glad she knew the joy that comes from creative writing.

BLOOMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL SHORT STORY CLUB

by

GRACE INMAN

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Grace Inman

S.S.C. (the Short Story Club) of Bloomington High School was organized in a most casual way. Nine English pupils were in the habit of gathering around my desk in B.H.S., Room 217, almost any afternoon after school. They decided that they were tired of textbook assignments and thought it would be a delightful change to write as their fancy led them. So, on Thursday, May 17, 1917, the club came into being with great ambition and a great desire to get into print if possible. Mrs. L. B. Merwin (Jessie Fell Merwin) became at once a patroness of the venture and offered a silver cup for the best contribution during the year. This cup would be given to the winner of a contest as his personal property and each year a new cup of the same design was to be given to the winner. The (masterpiece) contributions were to be judged by three of Bloomington's representative citizens interested or actively participating in professional writing.

These were presented in typewritten form with numbers only as signatures to the articles submitted.

During the first year of the organization, there were no officers and no set programs. Later it became necessary to have a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer and committees. A pin was designed by Davis Merwin, an old fashioned inkwell and quill pen, which is still the insignia of members.

At the death of Mrs. Merwin, L. B. Merwin became our patron and we titled him our junior member. In 1949, a son, Loring Merwin, the editor of the Pantagraph, became our esteemed junior member. Through all the years of Mrs. Merwin's sponsorship, the delightful dinners given at her home, 1320 E. Washington St., were the highpoint in the year's activities. At that time, the judges' decision was announced. In later years, however, under Miss Lorraine Kraft's guidance, a formal banquet, with original toasts by the officers, has been held to announce the Merwin Cup Winner. Paul Rhymer, an early cup winner, and I have added medals as trophies for second and third places as determined by the judges.

In my absence on several, but rare, occasions, other teachers, Miss Stubblefield, Miss Leonard, Miss Campbell, Miss Munce and Mrs. K. E. Wood (Alta Mae Harrison) have taken over the club meetings for a brief time.

The ritual always observed at initiation was written by Eleanor Forsythe, an early member. The membership has been dependent on tryouts to make sure the candidate was sincere and capable of membership. At present, the club is open to all who are interested in creative writing, and on the roster,

there are usually around forty members in good standing. The results have been gratifying because the one and only rule of the club has proved efficient: each member has promised to send back word if anything he or she has written has found its way into print. Every now and then, messages of such an event have come to us. Gervase Butler has become editor of a magazine in New York City. Paul Rhymer has been a successful writer of radio script and Hester Merwin's (now Mrs. Ayers) articles have appeared in "Asia" and several other magazines; her portraits have had recognition in New York City galleries and been given superior rating. Elizabeth Thompson has a book on Folk Dancing in print.

There has been a greater feeling of security in college work because of this early practice and the keen criticism of the members when "stories" were submitted, has stimulated careful writing.

Perhaps a few highlights of the years should be recorded. The group took over several pages of the Pantagraph at the time of a Community Chest Drive and wrote, from firsthand, interviews about the several charities in Bloomington, thereby becoming acquainted with their town. One of the most helpful experiences was writing a play for the Americanization School where there were many foreign groups learning English. The whole membership visited the committee in charge of the evening's entertainment to see if the play met the requirements. It was entitled, "The Life of George Washington" and a complete revision was necessary after this interview because the sentences

were too long for the beginners in English to mouth. This proved excellent training in sentence structure.

The group furnishes a large number of articles for the Literary Supplement published twice a year at Bloomington High. The National Poetry Anthology, the Illinois English Bulletin for some of the best writing of high school students, and the Scholastic Magazine have honored writing done in this club. Occasionally a member gets into print and "with pay".

The club has been fortunate in the many homes hospitably opened for occasional meetings, among them always the Merwin home. Many choice interviews with literary people visiting Bloomington (Edgar Guest, Edwin Markham, Louis Untermeyer) and living in Bloomington have inspired greater effort in creative writing.

In the Book of Bloomington, these names of the original members, I feel, should be inscribed. The thirty-three years of continued activity has well repaid the foresight of the founders since today creative writing in high school is taken for granted. Original members: Hester Merwin, Juliet Dodge, Marie Niergarth, Charles Strain, Helen Niehaus, Julia Henninger, Charlotte Burton, Verner Condon and Louis Epstein. First new members: Alta Mae Harrison, Fern Myers, Theodore Hasbrouck, Margaret Murray, Eugenia Herman and Ruth Hoffman.

The cultural background of Bloomington with its two universities, its efficient library and its cultural homes has furnished a background which fosters such youth activities.

To me, it has been a source of greatest inspiration to be associated with groups of boys and girls who handed on the

torch guiding to appreciation of Service, Sincerity and Courtesy in written English.

Very splendidly since 1942, Miss Lorraine Kraft has led the Short Story Club with ever increasing interest and pride in its past and in its future.

WOMAN'S CLUB OF BLOOMINGTON

by

Mrs. Frank W. Disbrow

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Bloomington has long been known as an intellectual and literary center. It has not only furnished great men to the nation and state, but has been noted for its unusually great and charming women. It has long been a city of literary clubs, even boasting the organization of the third literary club in the state, dating from about 1875.

Mrs. J. T. Lillard and Mrs. E. R. Morgan, two representative women of the city, had the belief that with all the literary clubs, there was a field unoccupied--a work to do that could not be accomplished except by the united efforts of all the good women of the city. Accordingly, in March, 1897, as promotors, they called together Mrs. George P. Brown, Mrs. C. L. Capen, Mrs. C. P. Soper, Mrs. A. B. Funk, Mrs. A. B. Hoblit, Mrs. Cora Stanton Brown, Mrs. H. C. DeMotte, Mrs. B. P. Marsh, Mrs. D. C. Smith, and Mrs. Sue A. Sanders.

As a committee of eleven, this group of enterprising women drew up a circular addressed to the various literary clubs of the city, asking the ladies to meet together to form a Woman's Club, having for its object, the promotion of the welfare of its individual members and of the community in general.

The call read: "A committee of women of our city have conceived the idea that it might be practicable to organize a Woman's Club, that would seek to promote the social welfare

of our community. It has been thought that such an organization would make it easier for the sentiments and convictions of the women to find expression, and that their influence would be greatly extended thereby. It is suggested that meetings of this Club might be held as often as once each month to listen to an address, or for the consideration of some topic of public interest. The belief is that the platform of the Club should be broad enough to give every serious interest of our social order a hearing."

The meeting was called for 3:30 o'clock, March 22, 1897, at the assembly room of the High School. The invitation was very generally accepted; the Club was at once organized, a constitution, as outlined by a committee, was adopted as outlined, and 52 women signed for membership. A committee of three was appointed to retire, and present to this meeting the names of permanent officers. After a brief consultation, they returned with the following nominations:

President--Mrs. Adlai E. Stevenson
First Vice-president--Mrs. Sue A. Sanders
Second Vice-president--Mrs. J. W. Fifer
Recording Secretary--Mrs. E. R. Morgan
Corresponding Secretary--Mrs. A. B. Hoblit
Treasurer--Miss May Christian
Directors--Mrs. George P. Brown
Mrs. C. L. Capen
Mrs. A. B. Funk
Mrs. C. P. Soper
Mrs. George P. Davis
Mrs. J. T. Lillard

With their election, the Club was launched with a final charter membership of 116, which soon grew to a total of 150 members the first year.

The Club first adopted as the departments:

Home--Mrs. J. T. Lillard, Chairman
Education--Mrs. George P. Brown
Literature and Art--Miss Mary J. Kimball
Philanthropy and Reform--Mrs. B. P. Marsh

For their programs, outstanding speakers were secured, one of the first they tried to secure, being Mrs. Henrotin, voting to invite her at the organization meeting. Mrs. Henrotin was the President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. For other programs, members prepared papers, and arranged discussion groups. Some of the first address subjects and studies were: Woman's Suffrage (a live subject in those days); Symposium: Literature For Children--From Standpoint of a Teacher, Librarian, Parent; State Work for Defective Children; Discussion on Poe, Tennyson, Riley, Browning, Homer's Iliad, and others; Literary Study of the Bible; Discussion: Is Domesticity In America on the Decrease?

If so, Why?; The Chemistry of The Kitchen; Artistic Handicraft; The Home as Affected By Modern Life; Kitchen Economics; Sanitary Science; Health and House Drainage and Sanitation; The Juvenile Court and Its Work; Child Labor Bill Laws; Education and the Higher Life; The Art of Living; Are Modern Education Methods Fads?; Study of Sociology as a Basis for Effective Charity; What Woman's Clubs are Doing for Philanthropy; How is Our City Nourished?; and, Housekeeping vs. Homekeeping.

Mrs. B. P. Marsh, first chairman of the Philanthropy and Reform Department, met with her committee in March, 1898, and established a free housekeeping school for the teaching of sewing and other domestic arts, to include girls from 9 to 15 years of age. This school was to be held at the Bloomington High School on Saturday afternoon, under the instruction of Mrs. Mary Kates. Reports show that the school was soon flourishing, with an average attendance of 120. In order to secure teachers for the school, the committee called upon members of the Club in alphabetical order to serve one month at a time, and it was suggested that those unable to serve, provide a substitute. This industrial school was faithfully and enthusiastically carried on for years.

Evidence that sewing was successfully taught was proven by the exhibition of a garment made entirely, from start to button-holes, by a 12-year old girl. The work of the department was so outstanding, that an article about it appeared in Harper's Bazaar of May 6, 1899. As a result of this splendid work, the Club prevailed upon the Board of Education to place Domestic Science in the Public Schools and the Club contributed in part to its support for a time. This industrial school was later, in October, 1899, removed to the basement of the Second Presbyterian Church, where the work was carried on until it was discontinued.

In 1904, by raising money through various projects, the Club contributed a goodly sum of money to assist in placing Manual Training in the High School, and later, assisted the Free Kindergarten Association of Stevensonville by giving an amount each month toward its support. The Club also gave active support and assistance toward establishing free kindergartens as a part of the Public School system of the city.

The Mother's Club, later becoming the Parent-Teachers' Association, was also an outgrowth of the Philanthropic Department.

Through persistent efforts on the part of a committee from the Woman's Club, the Associated Charities was completely organized April 10, 1900. This later became the Bureau of Social Service which served well its constituency in the community as long as there was a need for the organization. Mrs. Nannie Dunkin served as Probation Officer under

this Bureau and her services were of great value to the community as well as to those children who were saved from a life of crime.

Steps were taken this same year, 1900, to establish a social settlement on the West Side. Col. D. C. Smith, husband of Mrs. D. C. Smith, a club member vitally interested in this work, supported this work for six months under the auspices of the Club; and for the nine school months, the Woman's Club supplied the funds each month for the expenses of the settlement.

This became the Day Nursery of today, and originated, as reported by Mrs. R. O. Graham of the early Day Nursery, through the friendly visits of the Associated Charities. The Woman's Exchange (gift shop) and Tea Room was a branch of the Day Nursery and Woman's Club members took great interest in patronizing the Tea Room and Exchange, in that way assisting the Nursery financially.

In 1901, when the new Court House was built, an appointed committee of three members of the Club conferred with the supervisors, promoting the plan for an adequate rest-room for women in the building and this plan was carried out.

In 1902, the Club, through a committee from the Philanthropy Department, more than once urged the appointment by the City Council of a Police Matron. The Mayor reported at the first consultation that they had been unable to find a suitable person for the office but that if the Club would find such a woman, they would appoint her. Undaunted, the women still were hopeful that this office might be filled. In 1908, Mrs. M. T. Scott reported that the City authorities said they had no funds available at the time for the salary. However, through arrangements with the Bureau of Associated Charities, Mrs. Nannie Dunkin and her assistant, Miss Watson, volunteered their time for emergencies. Later a Police Matron was employed at call, and on December 17, 1922, the persistence of the Club members brought about the full-time appointment of two police-women, the Club paying a substantial amount to help defray expenses (such as taxi fare, etc.) of the police-women, a very satisfying achievement.

As an Illinois Federation Woman's Club project, two local traveling libraries were assembled, after a zealous effort, with more than 100 donated books. With Mrs. Noble King as chairman, they were circulated in the city and surrounding towns.

One large enterprise was "Cleaning Day," held in June, 1907, preceding Homecoming Week, launched by proclamation of the City Fathers, at the request of the Woman's Club. The Business Men's Association was invited to share with

the Club in the petition to the Council. All premises, streets, alleys, public grounds, and all parts of the city were to be thoroughly cleaned. A committee from the Woman's Club planned and executed the work, with committees in every Ward.

Mothers' Clubs served in the various Wards and children were enlisted. The women had paid the bill for buttons and badges used, but the Men's Association insisted upon paying for them, expressing the opinion of their Board of Directors that the successful culmination of the splendid project was due to the members of the Woman's Club.

The Woman's Club, in 1910, was the first organization to initiate real Civic work in Bloomington, it is believed, when they organized the Civic Department of the Club at the request of five Board members: Mrs. F. R. McKennan, Mrs. Edmund O'Connell, Mrs. Marshall Green, Mrs. H. C. DeMotte, and Mrs. George Monroe. Mrs. M. W. Law was appointed chairman of the department, and they worked for the betterment of the city. In 1918, a Food Sanitation Department was created with Mrs. George Monroe as chairman, and a city ordinance was passed, sponsored by the Club, prohibiting the display of all foods upon the sidewalks. A copy of State Food Laws was placed with each grocer and meat dealer in Bloomington. Also the Garbage ordinance was amended to require covers for garbage receptacles.

In 1911, the Club passed a resolution favoring a McLean County Tuberculosis Sanatorium and at the request of the Anti-Tuberculosis Association, appointed a committee of twenty-five members to go before the County Supervisors and present their endorsement. Later the Club was very active in invoking interest, circulating petitions, and securing signatures of approval for the Sanatorium, and assisting with printing and postage.

A Civic League with a membership of forty-five organizations of the city was originated through the efforts of the Club President, Mrs. L. S. Rupert and the Club's Civic Department, under the leadership of Mrs. Guy McCurdy, at a meeting in the Public Library, in April, 1913. Each organization was entitled to three delegates or members in the League, and their president was to be an ex-officio member. Out of this League, in 1917, grew the resolution asking the City Council to employ a full-time trained, non-resident, Health Director. An ordinance creating the office of Health Director, and abolishing the Board of Health, was passed and approved on June 6, 1919, and a full-time, trained, Director was appointed.

In July, 1913, a request was presented to the Woman's Club Board for the creation of an Art Department, the required number of members (five) having signified their

desire to have such a department. Mrs. A. B. Funk was appointed as temporary chairman, and she gave this quotation as a definition of Art: "Art is activity which produces beauty." The Art Department, in 1914, with Miss Nellie E. Parham, appointed to be the first regular chairman, presented an Exhibit and lecture by Mrs. Grace Gozette, and planned for two Monday evening lectures each month, in the Art room of the Library. The Woman's Club assisted this group financially until 1922, when the Club sponsored the organization of the Art Association through the Art Department, a project for which the Club had been working, through the preceding nine years. A year later, in 1923, the Art Association reported a membership of 454. The Garden Club of the present time is an outgrowth of the Art Association.

In 1913, a "Civic Primer" entitled, "City Ordinances You Ought to Know," was compiled by the Civic Department of the Club with Mrs. Guy McCurdy as chairman. Five thousand copies were published and paid for by the Club. The Board of Education, through Mr. J.K. Stapleton, Superintendent of Schools, issued a notice to teachers of Grades above 2-B, to "give ten minutes a week, preferably at the opening of school each Monday morning, to teaching the children the city ordinances given on the leaflets supplied to each school."

Under the leadership of Mrs. McCurdy and her Civic committee, also, the Club members made a survey of the city to use in the making of a "Spot Map." This map, completed in March, 1915, showed 6,347 houses and every alley within the city limits where garbage should be collected. This map aided greatly in better ascertaining the exact cost of garbage collections. The "Spot Map" was used by the City Council as a guide in arranging for such collections.

Under the Social Service Department, with Mrs. Schwarzman, chairman, the first supervised Public Playground was conducted during the summer of 1915, in what is now O'Neil Park. The City allowed the use of the Park, and the Woman's Club furnished part of the equipment, also the paid athletic director for the ten week's season. There was an average daily attendance of 35. The Y.M.C.A. gave the boys the privilege of the swimming pool each Wednesday morning. In 1916, the committee made a report on playground facilities for the coming season and had an interview with the Mayor, Mr. Carlock, on making the playgrounds a municipal affair.

The Club, in 1915, received an invitation from the Woman's Club at Lincoln for a meeting to be held September 29, to hear Mrs. George T. Palmer of Springfield, at the gathering of the Woman's Clubs of the 17th Congressional District, to consider "A District Organization for the 17th Congressional District." The invitation was accepted and Mrs. Mary Kates was elected as a delegate. She gave a most

interesting account of the meeting at which the Bloomington Club President, Mrs. N. D. McKinney, was made the President of the District Federation. Thus was the Illinois Federation of Woman's Clubs, Seventeenth District, organized, and Mrs. McKinney honored in being the first President of the district organization. Several years later, delegates were elected to represent the Woman's Club at a called meeting of County chairmen held in the Public Library on March 23, 1923, and here the McLean County Federation of Woman's Clubs was oeganized.

The School Children's Aid, a department of the Social Service Department was launched in 1916, its value emphasized then because of need in families of the unemployed. It has continued through the years and is one of the Club's outstanding activities at the present time. Mrs. Fred B. Capen was the first Social Service chairman, and Mrs. Charles Burr was supervisor of sewing. School children's garments have been made by members at monthly sewings and have been used for distribution to needy children through the Bureau of Social Service, the Day Nursery, and the city schools. Dainty serviceable dreses, individualized by diversified patterns and materials, blouses, skirts, slips, underwear, sleeping garments, shirts for boys, and layettes, have been produced by the hundreds and have served a real need for many school children. A large budget from the Club provided funds for the materials. In addition to clothing, the Club, for many years, provided funds for shoes for school children, given out through this department or the Bureau of Social Service. Longest continuous worker in the sewing department is Mrs. A. B. Means, with a record of 30-some years; second longest, Mrs. Harry Strain; and third longest, Mrs. R. E. Prosser.

In war-time, 1918, when there was an emergency call for more boy's garments, the regular Club meeting was an all-day sewing at the home of Mrs. Charles Burr, and 45 shirts were completed. A record year was in 1938-1939, when 396 garments were made and distributed.

The Public Welfare Department of the Club, another of the most important departments, giving help to others with an open heart and hand, was known for the first thirty years as the Social Service Department, changing its name in 1927, in accord with State Departments. Through the efficient committee administrators, it has brought cheer and gifts to women at the McLean County Farm on holiday occasions; assisted with funds for many civic and welfare projects; also sponsored the "adoption" of two or more worthy families for special occasions, or through the year, providing for generous gifts; patients at Fairview Tuberculosis Sanatorium have had their days brightened with books, magazines, and the showing of a motion picture on the outdoor screen, sponsored by the Club. Welfare and community projects receiving contributions from the Club regularly are: Com-

munity Chest; Red Cross, Cancer, and Tuberculosis Funds; Park Ridge School for Girls; Danville Veteran's Hospital; Indian Welfare Scholarship; and Trail Rangers. The latter four are projects of the Illinois Federation.

When the West Side Community Center, which the Woman's Club had assisted, dissolved in 1921, there was a considerable balance of Club funds on hand which had been set aside for that purpose. Miss Nellie Parham suggested that it be turned over to the building fund of the Western Avenue Community Church, since that was a new community enterprise, so this worthy investment was made by the Club.

When the Art Association had become an established institution, the "Little Theater" Movement next claimed the interest and promotional efforts of the Woman's Club. Lectures on the Drama under the Art and Literature department were featured, and a puppet show was staged and plays given under the direction of Miss Grace Arlington Owen, instructor at Illinois State Normal University. Miss Owen was present at a meeting of the Club in February, 1923 and spoke on the Little Theater movement, telling of the interest shown by both men and women in such an enterprise. At the close of her talk, the members voted that permission be granted to the Art and Literature Department to give the Club play, "Overtone," (one of two original one-act plays written by Miss Owen for the Club), on March 6, in a suitable hall, to which admission would be free but by ticket--each Club member to have one ticket, and the Drama committee in charge to have the privilege of distributing the remaining tickets up to the limit of the seating capacity of the hall; the Club to allow a goodly sum for the expenses of the public presentation. It was understood that the purpose in tiving the free public presentation was to launch the "Little Theater" Movement by giving the audience an opportunity to join in forming an organization to develop the movement; and with the further understanding that while an organization so formed would have control of the activities and finances of the "Little Theater" Movement, the project would still be under the sponsorship of the Woman's Club, but the Club would be exempt from financial liabilities. At the next meeting of the Club, in April, 1923, a report was given by the Art and Literature Department, of the final organization of the Little Theater Movement with 335 members. This became, later, an entirely independent organization known as the Community Players, a flourishing and distinguished group.

In 1927, the Club, cooperating jointly with the Woman's Church Federation, Y.W.C.A., and the W.C.T.U., helped in founding the Woman's Lodge, in response to the need expressed for a Traveler's Aid organization. Rooms in the Salvation Army building were furnished and maintained by these groups, and used as a temporary lodging place for transient women. This work was later taken over entirely by the Salvation Army.

The Club, in 1928, established a fund for an annual Wesleyan Scholarship for aid to worthy students. This scholarship was given for three years, then the gift was changed to a general Student Loan Fund, sponsored by the Education Department of the Club. Since then, this fund is available to some student who may borrow the amount and repay it after their graduation.

In 1928, under the leadership of Mrs. Alma Schierbaum, newly appointed Junio Department Chairman, a Junior Woman's Club was organized. This Club, with a nucleus of twenty-five girls of High School age, developed into a group of young women of adult age, and has grown in numbers, initiative, and accomplishments, until it is now one of the greatest assets of the parent Club. Through its work, young women are trained for leadership, to participate in all forms of community betterment, and carry on general Woman's Club projects as well. In 1937, when the Junior Woman's Club observed its tenth anniversary at a dinner meeting, the President, Miss Selma Anderson used, for the first time, a gavel just received at a McLean County Federation meeting in Lexington from the United States Forestry Department. In common with the whole nation, the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs entered a contest to aid reforestation. The Illinois Clubwomen won the contest and forestry workers made gavels of native woods for the 1,085 senior and junior clubs of the State. Four hundred and eighty acres had been re-set with trees, through the zeal of Illinois Women's Clubs.

In 1931, in response to the great need caused by the depression, the Club sponsored the Welfare Headquarters where used clothing was collected, repaired, and distributed to the needy. Demand for relief grew so rapidly that the State of Illinois took over the project and employed people to handle the office. The Club continued to cooperate in this work for three years. Mrs. Kate Elgin, who had been the chairman of the Children's Aid sewing for the Club at this time, became the director of the Red Cross sewing work for the Welfare Headquarters, under the State supervision.

Red Cross sewing was an important occupation for many Club members, in a special department of the Club, during the years of World War II. Members sewed and knitted regularly under the direction of capable Club chairmen, and a highlight report was given of 990 garments and many army utility bags and comfort kits, made by the women of the Senior and Junior Clubs in the two years of 1941 and 1942. In 1945, the Red Cross chairmen, Mrs. Harold Goodwin and Mrs. P. C. Somerville, told of a total of 6,563 hours of work by members and of 28 blood donors in the Club for the year.

In 1948, the Red Cross committee, with Mrs. Carl Niedermeyer as chairman, sewed on 23 large Red Cross flags

to be used on the Courthouse lawn at the time of the annual Red Cross campaign for funds. Other Red Cross chairmen were: Mrs. John Leininger, Mrs. Ivan Jenkins, Mrs. Leo Eaton, Mrs. Louis Flinspach, and Mrs. C. N. Baumgart, all totaling many hours of special work in this capacity.

Some of the other World War II activites of the Club included: contributions of cash, cookies, and fruits, as well as many hours of service of members serving at the Alton Railroad depot Canteen conducted by the National Red Cross during the duration of the War for soldiers passing through Bloomington; contributions were made under the National Defense Committee of the Club, with Mrs. A.M. Rasmussen and Mrs. Mark Hayes, chairmen for their respective terms, to the hobby room at Chanute Field at Rantoul; also for the snack hour conducted by the U.S.O. (United Services Organization) cookies, cake, candy, and other supplies were repeatedly provided. Books, magazines, games, writing paper, shaving equipment, holiday cards for soldiers to mail to relatives or friends, and various other gift items were contributed to Service Men's Centers. One member, Miss Maud Abbott, made 90 scrap-books for the Dwight Hospital.

The Club helped with supplies and made surgical dressings for disabled veteran's at the Veteran's Hospitals at Dwight and Galesburg, and at Chanute Field at Rantoul. Donors gave gift boxes for soldiers embarking for overseas, and sent boxes of listed articles for soldiers in service overseas. Garments were made and knitting done for Aid To Britain, and clothing and food sent to British prisoners in Germany, as well as cash contributed for British War Relief.

The Club made a contribution toward the recreational project for ambulatory patients at the Veteran's Hospital called "The Haven," at Marion, Illinois. They also contributed to a fund for renovation and remodeling of the interdenominational Chapel of the Veteran's Hospital at Danville. Cash was allotted to the Greenhouse Fund of Vaughan General Hospital for Soldier's at Hines, this being an Illinois Federation of Woman's Clubs project, for which the State Federation finally contributed a total of $37,000. The Greenhouse is an occupational therapy provision, with runways wide enough for recuperating soldiers to travel in wheel-chairs and work with plants, and aids greatly in keeping up soldier morale.

In post-war work, the Community Service Department, with Mrs. R. U. Gooding as chairman, sponsored Club assistance in packing bundles of shoes and school supplies for the children of Europe; a cash donation was appropriated for a clothing-kit for children of Europe; also the Club gave a large prepared package, also cash toward postage for packages, in the "Pieces For Peace," project to be sent abroad.

These three enterprises were initiated nationally, and carried out throughout the city under the auspices of the Bloomington-Normal Church Council.

The Art Department sponsored an Art Scholarship and sent a representative High School student (chosen through art competition) to the new Art Camp, initiated in 1948 by the Art Department of the Illinois Club Federation, and held the first year at Camp Seymour, near Decatur. This camp was then changed to be held at Allerton Park, near Monticello, the beautiful estate now owned by the State and sponsored by the University of Illinois.

The Club, through the Music Department, provides in alternate years with the Art Department, a Music Scholarship, and sends a High School student (chosen through musical competition) to the Egyptian Music Camp at DuQuoin, Illinois.

In 1944, the Club started a project with a nucleus fund for a Girl Scout cabin at the Myra Peairs Girl Scout Camp at Lake Bloomington. In 1949, this fund was completed to cover the building expense for a cabin in the name of the Woman's Club of Bloomington, one of the major accomplishments of the women.

In 1948, Mrs. Roy Taylor, President, attended a meeting sponsored by the Rotary Club, of all Service Clubs and Women's organizations, called together to express their various ideas for a civic betterment project. The idea of the Woman's Club, as given by Mrs. Taylor, was the suggestion for a Community Center Building in which all Civic Clubs might meet, sponsor programs and entertain, also that it might have facilities for recreational programs for various age groups. In the very first years of its existence, the Club discussed the matter of erecting a Woman's Club building and the subject has been broached at intervals through the years but this dream of the Club founders has not as yet materialized. However, the good seed sown by the leaders' suggestions may yet bear results.

The Club in the beginning years held the regular meetings in Cooper Hall, on the second floor of the building at the southwest corner of Main and Mulberry streets, then they met for many years in the first location of the Odd Fellows Lodge on East Jefferson Street, where the State Farm Insurance Building now stands. In October, 1922, the meeting place was changed to the Y.W.C.A. building, at that time just completed. Since 1947, the Club has held its meetings in the Odd Fellows Hall at the present location, 303 East Monroe Street.

Two years after its organization, the Club was first admitted to the General Federation of Woman's Clubs on May 10, 1899. The membership was discontinued later, for a

period of years, but the Club re-joined the General Federation on January 1, 1937.

The Club was admitted to the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs on May 11, 1898, and holds membership in the Seventeenth District and the McLean County Federations of Women's Clubs.

The local group has been the hostess organization for many sessions of the McLean County and Seventeenth District Federation meetings. Four sessions of the Central Region of the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs have been held in Bloomington and Normal: the first, in Bloomington Y.W.C.A. on May 11, 1916, the second at the same location, October 19, 1928. Normal, our nearby city, entertained the third gathering on October 8, 1940. One of the largest in attendance ever held was the Central Regional of November 1, 1944, in the Y.W.C.A. with 340 present and our own State Vice-President, Director of the Central Region, Mrs. Raymond R. Fairfield, presiding. Mrs. Elias W. Rolley was hostess President.

A notable gathering was the meeting with the local Club as hostess which was held at the Y.W.C.A. on January 28, 1941 in a double observance of the Golden Anniversary of the General Federation and the Silver Anniversary of the Seventeenth District, during the regime of Mrs. J. B. Murphy. The guest speaker was Mrs. E. J. Lehman, Past President of the General Federation, and at the time of this celebration, a Director (for Illinois) on the G.F.W.C. Board. Beautiful programs were printed in both gold and silver, and as an anniversary gift, a treasure chest of silver coins was presented to Mrs. Lehman, to further the General Federation Foundation Anniversary Fund being raised.

In commemoration of the Golden Anniversary of the founding of the Woman's Club of Bloomington, Mrs. Eldo M. Moore, President, with her capable committees, was hostess at a memorable tea, held at the Y.W.C.A. in 1947, with members in costumes of years ago and with many honored guests. As a Golden Jubilee project, the Club allotted $300.00 to help in furnishing a room in the proposed new Memorial Isolation Hospital in Bloomington.

Bloomington has contributed a number of officers for the County, District, and Illinois Federated Club organizations. Club members having served as officers with the Illinois Federation are: Mrs. Ralph Pringle, State Historian and State Vice-President - Director, Central Region; and Mrs. Raymond R. Fairfield, State Vice-President - Director, Central Region, 1943-1945.

Club members serving as Presidents of the Seventeenth District Federation are:

Mrs. N. D. McKinney -	1915
Mrs. Florence Risser Funk	1915 - 1917
Mrs. Carl Vrooman	1922 - 1924

Mrs. Ralph W. Pringle	1930 - 1932
Mrs. Raymond R. Fairfield	1938 - 1941
Miss Ida Hieronymous	1949 - 1950

Also there have been County Federation Presidents and many other County officers from this Club.

The Woman's Club of Bloomington has had continued growth and wide-spread service through the years under the leadership of twenty-four most competent presidents:

*Mrs. Adlai E. Stevenson	1897-1901
*Mrs. Sain Welty	1901-1908
*Mrs. Matthew T. Scott	1908-1909
*Mrs. D. C. Smith	1909-1910
*Mrs. Marshall Green	1910-1911
Mrs. L. S. Rupert	1911-1913
*Mrs. J. B. Lennon	1913-1914
*Mrs. N. D. McKinney	1914-1919
Mrs. Guy McCurdy	1919-1921
Mrs. Julius Griesheim	1921-1923
Mrs. George Monroe	1923-1925
*Mrs. O. D. Travis	1925-1927
Mrs. E. O. Brown	1927-1929
Mrs. W. A. L. Beyer	1929-1931
Mrs. J. C. Hassler	1931-1933
Mrs. Thomas J. Lancaster	1933-1935
Mrs. E. M. Moore	1935-1937
*Mrs. Ralph W. Pringle	1937-1939
Mrs. J. B. Murphy	1939-1941
Mrs. R. U. Gooding	1941-1943
Mrs. Elias Rolley	1943-1945
Mrs. Glenn Wills	1945-1947
Mrs. Roy Taylor	1947-1949
Mrs. Jack Sheean	1949-

*Deceased

Outstanding is the work of the first President, Mrs. Adlai E. Stevenson, wife of the Vice-President of the United States, who was honored by the Club in being named President Emeritus for Life; of Mrs. Sain Welty, who served the longest term as President, seven year, from 1901 to 1908; of Mrs. Howard Humphreys who conducted the School Children's Aid sewing for seven years in the early days; and to Mrs. Charles H. Burr, in whose home at Prairie and Chestnut Streets, the School Children's Aid Sewing group met regularly from December, 1917 through April, 1918, in this war year.

Outstanding, also, is the work of all the Presidents, officers, committees, and Club members who have given willingly and tirelessly of their time, talents, and treasure,

to uphold the high standard set by the founders and early leaders as the purpose for the Club: "The improvement of the members and the promotion of social, moral, and educational conditions in the community and the state."

They exemplify well the Club mottoes: "To help another from what one has or is, is the most noble deed."
"Let us stand, not for self, but for service."
"The glory of life is to be of use."

THE BABY FOLD

by

Reverend William A. Hammitt

The Baby Fold

"An Investment In Humanity"

"And he who gives a child a treat
Makes joy-bells ring in Heaven's street,
And he who gives a child a home
Builds palaces in Kingdom come."

- John Masefield -

If "necessity is the mother of invention" then The Baby Fold came into existence in answer to a great un-met need. Nearly fifty years later--in the middle of the twentieth century--it still serves the unique purpose for which it was originally intended. Perhaps even now it is on the threshold of the greatest service it has ever rendered!

Mrs. Nancy A. Mason had been the moving spirit in organizing the First Methodist Church in Normal. She was a devout connectional Methodist who believed that her church should serve humanity in every way possible. As the orphanage movement grew in the middle west and church groups began to sponsor children's institutions, Mrs. Mason watched developments with keep perception. She soon became aware of the fact that no provision was being made under Protestant auspices, for the care of infants and children under school age. Her inquiries in neighboring counties convinced her that jails, poor farms and asylums were not adequate to care for the needs of abandoned tiny tots. Once having a clear vision of the need that existed she set out to fulfill it through personal sacrifice. Her home at 309 North Street in Normal, valued at that time at $2500, soon became the first home of what was later to become The Baby Fold. One woman's responsive answer to a heavenly vision has in less than half a century proved a blessing to more than 6500 homeless children.

On May 1st, 1902 James A. Rose, Secretary of State for Illinois issued Articles of Incorporation for the Mason Deaconess Home for Aged. The application for the charter was signed by Lilian Coleman, Elsie Ball and Elizabeth Boyer. The first Board of Trustees consisted of Richard Creroes, J. M. Rice, J. S. Meyer, Mary Jefferson and F. M. Fox. (Recorded at Bloomington, Illinois, June 26, 1902, Book 218, page 436.) The object of the corporation was "to establish and maintain a home for deaconesses, to give instruction to those who enter for benevolent work or nursing, to provide a home for the aged and sick and dependent. To receive gifts and execute trusts therefor." It was Mrs. Mason's plan to move out of her home and to convert it into a combination (a) home for retired Deaconesses, (b) a training school for young girls wanting to enter Deaconess work and (c) an orphanage for children under two years of age. The retired members were to do the teaching and the students were to care for the children, thus eliminating a paid staff. This she did for awhile but with many conflicts and growing tensions.

The name was changed by action of the Board on March 12, 1904 to N. A. Mason Deaconess Home and School. Already the idea of caring for retired people and infants under one roof had exploded! From this time on emphasis was to be on Deaconess training and infant care.

The following year, May 5, 1905 the training school was abandoned and the shingle on the front door read: "Baby Fold of the Mason Deaconess Home." At this time Lucy Ryder Meyer, long an outstanding figure in Methodist Deaconess work, became actively associated with this venture. For several years she served as a trustee and was largely responsible for setting the course of this new organization in the direction of child care. Two of Mrs. Mason's original concepts, namely (a) an old folks home and (b) a deaconess training school failed to develop. However, the Deaconess connection and influence provided the Christian motivation and sacrificial service needed to firmly establish and develop her dream of good care for homeless babies. Not until January 15, 1908 did the Board actually secure permission from the Secretary of State to change the corporate title to read: Mason Deaconess Home and Baby Fold.

The first full-time superintendent elected to carry on the work with children was Miss Nellie O. Randle. She was a trained nurse sent to this position by the National Deaconess Board of The Methodist Episcopal Church. A worker who is now retired, once associated with Miss Randle, described her as "young and beautiful but too easy-going with members of the staff." Excerpts from her first annual report are well worth recalling: "The Mason Deaconess Home has been in existence for several years, the property valued at $2500, being the gift of Mrs. Nancy A. Mason, an old resident of Normal. Deaconesses in the state of Illinois are operating two large orphanages in which children from two to twelve years of age are received. Deaconesses also manage a girls' school, a very prosperous institution in Aurora, and a boys' school, an equally successful institution in Quincy. But there were insistent calls for a place where infants, children less than two years old, could be cared for. The Roman Catholic Church has many infant asylums, and it was felt that it was high time that the Methodist Episcopal Church should undertake this greatly needed work. It was therefore decided that the Mason Home should be used for this purpose. Harry, a tiny Chicago laddie, was my first charge; but soon there were four babies in the family and The Baby Fold was an assured success. Its object is to help children, especially infants, who are for any reason deprived of the care which is necessary for the proper development of the child life. There are at present five workers in the Home--one licensed Deaconess and four probationers. The entire time of three of these workers has been given to the care of the 37 little people who have lived here during the year. The Superintendent, being a trained nurse, has carried a double responsibility, especially so because so many of these little ones come from homes of poverty or ignorance, thus being more of a care than ordinary well nourished children would be. Our Field Secretary came to us in March and has spent much of her time in presenting the work to the people of Central Illinois.

"Ten dollars a month or $2.50 per week will support a child, but very few of those received are able to pay this sum, which will

be seen to be very small when it is remembered that it includes the constant scientific care of a trained nurse and the free service of a physician when needed.

"At the present time the Home shelters eight babies, all but two being under the age of eight months. The largest number cared for at any one time was sixteen, which is about the capacity of the Home. About half of our babies are from Bloomington or Normal; several have come from surrounding towns, some from Chicago, and a few from other states. Permanent homes have been found for three homeless babies.

"If every child had paid $2.50 a week for the time he was here we should have received thus far $791.25. But since we have received from them only $330.70 it will be readily seen that a little more than half our work has been entirely free. This has been made possible by the gifts of many friends who are scattered literally from Maine to California. We are deeply grateful to all these, believing that by this means we have been able not only to help over a crisis several well nigh discouraged heads of families, but also to care for many neglected little ones, even to the saving of some of their lives.

"As a new institution we have been very kindly received by the people of Normal, the business men especially having manifested much interest in our work. We wish to express our appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Ferd C. McCormick of Normal, and Dr. E. J. Hyndman of Bloomington, for their services in times of sickness of the older members of the Home family as well as of the babies; also to Dr. William E. Quine of Chicago, for his generous support of one of our workers. We have named the second Wednesday of each month our Visiting Day,--though every day brings many visitors. To some Visiting Day means Donation Day. Our needs are canned fruit, jelly, vegetables, soap, etc., clothing for children under four years of age, bed clothing for tiny beds, baby cabs, go-carts, high chairs, rocking horses and toys of all sorts. Money is always acceptable, else how could we buy coal and milk and bread and gravy?

"The year has been a good one. We have met with nothing but kindness. The faith which enabled us to undertake this work which was almost an experiment, has not been unrewarded; for the kind Father has ever kept us in remembrance and has graciously supplied all our needs."

Miss Randle resigned on May 4, 1908, because of failing health. Later she married Mr. Lucian Jones and together they spent many years in the foreign missionary field. As this is being written in September of 1950, she is now a widow, serving as secretary for the First Methodist Church in Salem, Oregon where she has been a member for more than 60 years!

On the same day that Miss Randle resigned, Mrs. T. W. Asher was employed as her successor. She was born Tompie Witten, daughter of Henry B. and Emily Graham Witten, near Trenton, Missouri on April 10, 1869. On October 5, 1899 she married Arthur T. Asher. He died on July 3, 1901. For several years she taught school and then in 1907

she entered Deaconess work. When she took over as superintendent of The Baby Fold in 1908 she had no idea of doing anything more than a fill-in job until a permanent selection could be made. When she left The Baby Fold about four o'clock on the afternoon of January first in 1936 she had invested 27 of her best years in caring for homeless children! Her life had given new meaning to the old adage---"To be remembered, forget yourself."

The trend in America was toward children's institutions when Mrs. Asher assumed her new position. Previously dependent children had been shunted off to jails, poor houses and asylums. An awakened society was just beginning to demand something better and the separate institution providing care for those who were homeless seemed to be the answer. Church people particularly were responsive to her appeal. The Baby Fold grew because of her dynamic leadership and because of the unique service that it had to offer.

The board minutes dated May 10, 1910 contain the following resolution:

"RESOLVED, That the Mason Deaconess Home and Baby Fold exchange the property known as Lot Five (5), Block One (1), in the Fifth Addition to the Town of Normal, and Thirteen (13) feet off the West side of Lot Four (4), Block One (1), in the Fifth Addition of the Town of Normal, McLean County, Illinois, for the premises known as 108 Willow Street, Normal, Illinois, now owned and occupied by Melinda Anderson, and also pay the sum of Five Hundred dollars ($500.00) in addition thereto, and that we hereby instruct and direct the president and secretary of this Society to execute the necessary papers to convey the premises first described."

Shortly after this date the original Mason home was traded in on the Willow Street property and The Baby Fold came to its present location. At that time it was virtually out in the country. The street was not paved, sewer, water, electricity and other modern conveniences were as yet only fond dreams. Mrs. W. H. Johnson now deceased, but a long-time member of the Board, was responsible for a chain letter asking for dimes to finance the purchase of the new home and to make the necessary repairs. Letters and dimes came in from all over the country and her venture was a success! Mrs. L. A. Hinton, the sole surviving member of that early Board, has often related the story of "moving day." The Normal merchants joined with Board members and pushed the babies in buggies and carts from the old Mason home to the new Baby Fold on Willow Street. It was a great day for the Town of Normal!

Another interesting fact is found in the old records. Until June 30, 1910 most of the Board meetings had been held in Chicago. A majority of the trustees came from that vicinity, so to avoid travel, the meetings were held in the city with the superintendent going to Chicago each month or two for the business meeting. On this date in 1910 the first meeting was held in Normal in the basement of the Methodist Church. This practice was changed in 1940 when regular monthly meetings were scheduled in the office of the agency itself.

The purchase of Dr. W. E. Quine's home adjoining The Baby Fold on the west, was approved by Board action on October 3, 1911. In exchange for the property Dr. Quine received a $5000 annuity bond bearing 6% interest for his life time. At this same meeting Rev. John T. Jones was elected President of the Board, Dr. Ferd C. McCormick was elected physician and Dr. J. S. Reece was selected as dentist for the "family."

Other early entries of historical value are these:

November 4, 1926 -- Committee appointed to draft constitution and by-laws.

April 14, 1931 -- Dr. W. L. Penniman elected house physician.

April 5, 1934 -- Lester H. Martin moved "that an Endowment Fund be created, an Endowment Treasurer elected, and the $9000 from the Fear Estate in Gridley be voted into this fund."

Tompie Asher's administration was characterized by hard work, financial struggle, utter devotion to a cause and complete faith in God. In 1934 The Bloomington Daily Pantagraph selected her for the Distinguished Community Service Award. On November 21, 1948 she succumbed to a long and painful illness which brought to a close a great life of unselfish service. The last person she employed before leaving The Baby Fold in 1936, Miss Alma Stine, is yet serving on the staff as this history is written. She is a resident practical nurse who has given invaluable service and devotion to her task.

The interim years from 1936 to 1940 were rather hectic ones. The great depression had made charitable work difficult to finance. At the same time calls for service were on the increase. New leaders as they came were torn between field work for fund raising and the needs of an over-worked and under-paid staff at home. Personnel turnover was rapid.

In January of 1936 Miss Ethel Glandon, a Deaconess, came into the superintendency. In October of that same year she left. Miss Bell, the head nurse, also resigned about the same time. Mrs. E. L. Beach who had been serving as assistant superintendent, was the acting head from this time until late in the fall of 1937. Mrs. Irma Newcomer, who had been serving as parish visitor for the First Methodist Church in Champaign became superintendent in November of 1937.

Changing concepts of child care brought the Department of Public Welfare into The Baby Fold picture about this time. Fortunately, the Department's representative in this region was Miss Marian K. Craine, daughter of Dr. Will H. Craine who was for many years one of the leading ministers in the old Central Illinois Conference. Even The Baby Fold's closest friends did not know that for several years state license had been withheld and at this point legal action was contemplated by the Department to close the institution. Through the untiring efforts of Miss Craine who saw both sides of the picture, a new program was outlined and beginning January 1, 1940 The Baby Fold has been duly licensed and approved ever since.

In October of 1939 the Board employed Rev. and Mrs. William A. Hammitt as superintendents. Mr. Hammitt, a member of the Illinois Annual Conference of The Methodist Church, was at that time serving as Director of Religious Education at the Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's School in Normal. Mrs. Hammitt, nee Gwendolyn Morris, had been a High School Home Economics teacher prior to her marriage. Mrs. Asher, yet an active member of the Board, nominated the Hammitts and soon after their employment she left for Trenton, Missouri to live with her brother. Since her retirement in 1936 she had been living on the Baby Fold farm at the edge of Normal on Route 51. The Board at this time consisted of Dr. Arthur S. Chapman, Rev. O. B. Enselman, Prof. Howard W. Adams, Judge Oscar G. Hoose, Mrs. L. A. Hinton, Mrs. W. H. Johnson, and Mrs. Asher. The Hammitts took charge of The Baby Fold on November 15, 1939.

Miss Judith Hogberg, a graduate of Swedish Covenant Hospital in Chicago, was employed beginning January 1, 1940. She is still serving faithfully in her capacity as head nurse and director of the health program as this is written.

On November 14, 1941 by Board action, the legal name of the corporation was changed to The Baby Fold.

The Baby Fold's 40th Anniversary was appropriately observed with a public banquet in the Normal Methodist Church on May 1, 1942. Bishop Ernest Lynn Waldorf and Miss Edna Zimmerman were the principal speakers. The dinner was served for 50 cents per plate.

In July of 1942 Mrs. Emma S. Blackman was employed as caseworker. This was a new position and expanded the specialized services of the agency. A few weeks later on August 2, Mrs. Blackman came to join The Baby Fold staff as its first caseworker. A graduate of the University of Chicago School of Social Administration, she has done an excellent job of developing this important department. Like Miss Hogberg she is currently rendering loyal service.

In the same year the Mother's Day offering was instigated. Each succeeding year the Methodist Churches of the Illinois Conference have been asked to present the needs of the Baby Fold on this day and receive a special offering. From a very limited beginning it has grown to be a vital source of income.

Something new was added in 1944. The annual meeting held on May 12th that year closed with a public dinner in the Bloomington Masonic Temple. 175 guests heard Russell W. Ballard of Hull House, Chicago, speak on "Some Observations Concerning Juvenile Delinquency." This pattern has been followed each year with such outstanding speakers as Bishop J. Ralph Magee, Rodney H. Brandon, Director of Public Welfare; Dr. Roy L. Smith, Editor, The Christian Advocate; Miss Ethel Verry, of the Chicago Orphan Asylum; and Samuel A. Goldsmith, of the Jewish Charities of Chicago.

Another innovation in 1944 was the election of a layman as President of the Board. Clarence K. Jacobssen was given this signal honor and served three years with loyal devotion to his task.

At the Mid-year meeting of the Board of Trustees on November 12, 1948, the following resolution was unanimously adopted: "In view of the fact this is the last general meeting of The Baby Fold Board under the Presidency of Clarence K. Jacobssen, the following resolution be spread upon the records. (1) Mr. Jacobssen is the first layman in the history of The Baby Fold to serve as President of the Board, (2) during his tenure of office our field work program was initiated, (3) also during his term, the Building Program has definitely made progress and is about to get underway. Also, in appreciation of his consecrated and efficient service, the unlimited time given to the work of The Baby Fold, his wise and understanding leadership, we the members of the Board express to him in this small way, our deep appreciation and thanks for all he has given in this work of helping care for those who cannot care for themselves, and who were they able to say it, would bless him for these years of service in their behalf."

At the Mid-year meeting of the Board on November 10, 1944, a special committee headed by M. E. Graff and consisting of Dr. Arthur P. Jordan and Oscar G. Hoose, presented a resolution, written by Judge Hoose, which was unanimously adopted. The following section is quoted from it:

"Whereas, a careful examination reveals most definitely that a new plant for this agency must be provided, that its present buildings are not fireproof, that the foundations, wooden frame-work, plumbing and electrical installations have almost completed their period of usefulness and service; that the plant is inadequately and improperly arranged so as to prevent efficiency and economy of operation; that the cost of repair and maintenance for these reasons is excessive and wasteful all of which result in an inability to adequately, safely and efficiently serve the needs of the community and to carry on the great and good work of The Baby Fold for and on behalf of its children who will be the citizens of tomorrow;"

"And whereas, looking ahead, it is obvious that in the not too far distant future it will become mandatory that the present home of The Baby Fold will have to be supplanted by modern, fire-proof and efficient quarters of modern design and arrangement,"

"And whereas, when that time arrives it will be well that there be provided in advance a fund sufficient to warrant the undertaking and that therefore there be initiated a permanent building fund."

Mr. Graff was elected the first treasurer of this newly created fund at the same meeting. From this beginning the building program has steadily advanced to the present time. R. R. Armstrong is the present building fund treasurer.

The last amendment to the by-laws was filed with the Secretary of State on November 26, 1945. At a Board meeting on November 9th of that year the following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, that the object of this corporation be as follows: The object of this corporation shall be to provide Christian care and

training for dependent and homeless children from birth to six years of age; to place children in adoptive homes, and to promote a general interest in child welfare."

Beginning at the close of World War One, repeated efforts had been made in Illinois to revise or replace an old adoption statute which had been enacted by the legislature in 1874. Under its lax provisions this state had become an adoption "Reno" with widespread unfavorable publicity and abuses. In 1943 revision was narrowly defeated. However, in 1945 a new act was signed into law, a copy of which is enclosed in the cornerstone box of the new nursery building. The Baby Fold was in the forefront in helping to achieve this victory. Mr. Hammitt, served as co-chairman of the Illinois Committee on Adoption Revision, a voluntary organization which sponsored this legislation. In this and other ways The Baby Fold is striving to fulfill its purpose as stated in the last amendment--"to promote a general interest in child welfare."

In the spring of 1946 Judge Oscar C. Hoose appeared before the Commission on World Service and Finance of the Methodist Church and made a stirring plea for more support from the church for the building fund. These were his closing words: "The Baby Fold is Christianity in action. It is mercy and helpfulness at work. It is the building of hearts, lives and souls. It makes the world just a little better place in which to live."

At the annual meeting on May 10th of that year Judge Hoose took an active part. He was most vigorous in his opposition to a proposed policy of charging adoptive parents a service fee. At his behest the matter was tabled. Ten days later on Monday, May 20 he was stricken with a fatal heart attack and died in his court room. On that day The Baby Fold lost one of its wisest and most devoted leaders.

The longest period of service given by any one staff member came to an end on September 15th, 1946 when Miss Grace Harris retired from active duty. She came to The Baby Fold from Deaconess training in 1909 and gave a full life of 35 years to caring for little children. During many of these years her "pay" consisted of an allowance of $5.00 per month. We honor her as a home missionary.

The Methodist Annual Conference in 1947 appointed the Reverend Alfred E. Cole as field representative for The Baby Fold. It was thought that his appointment was the first for that particular position. The old record is not exactly clear as to who did this work previously and for what periods of time. We do know that Mrs. Asher spent much of her time in the field raising money. Miss Randle's first annual report lists Miss Reva A. Owen as Field Secretary. Her salary, or allowance as they listed it, was five dollars a month. This interesting quote is from the Board minutes of April 23, 1908--"Regarding Miss Owen, Miss Randle reported that in helping with finances she was not a special success but that in public speaking she created a good sentiment in favor of the home."

Again, the record for June 30, 1910 shows that the Reverend Elmer R. Smith of Normal agreed to work as field agent for The Baby Fold

on a part-time basis. Probably down through the years various staff members and friends did some part-time work in this connection. Surely it has always been a heavy part of the superintendent's job! During Mr. Cole's three years in the field many new friends were secured for the work and a good start was made on the building fund. The pastor of the Normal Methodist church has always been closely identified with The Baby Fold. The present pastor, Dr. I. S. Corn, has served on the Board for the past nine years.

At Conference time in June of 1950 the Coles retired and moved to San Mateo, California. The Bible included in the cornerstone box in the new nursery in 1950 was a gift from them. Mr. Cole's successor was the Reverend Charles W. Sedgwick, a prominent younger member of the Conference, who came to this position from Carlinville, Illinois. He is known as Field Director and is directing the general public relations program of the agency. He has brought vigor, keen insight and devoted Christian consecration to his task. We look forward to his field leadership in these critical years and for many years yet to come.

The whole public relations picture of The Baby Fold has had recent impetus of far-reaching consequences. Not until 1948 did the church do anything officially to promote the necessary financial underwriting for this work. Down through the years the superintendent's major task had been "begging" from church to church for the daily operating needs of the home. When the time came to raise funds for new buildings it became quite evident that they could not be secured in the same fashion and simultaneously with the "bread and butter" funds.

The regular session of the 1947 Annual Conference held in Jacksonville, launched a campaign to provide for expanded educational facilities but ignored the needs of The Baby Fold. The urgent need of Sunset Home at Quincy for an infirmary was likewise omitted. Unfavorable lay reaction to the set-up led to the calling of a Special Session of the Conference in Bloomington on January 28, 1948. Bishop J. Ralph Magee presided. The main item of business was a resolution presented by Dr. Laren Spear, which after discussion was adopted by the Conference. Some sections are included here for the sake of the historical record:

"Whereas, the Conference has a basic responsibility for the maintenance and effectiveness of its benevolent and service agencies, and

Whereas, our Area leader, Bishop J. Ralph Magee, with forceful Christian statesmanship has envisioned a long range public relations endeavor, leading to the enlargement of interest in and support of our correlated Conference educational and benevolent program, and

Whereas, The Baby Fold and Sunset Home face emergency needs which can only be met by the securing of substantial capital funds, and

Whereas, MacMurray College for Women, Chaddock Boys School, The Methodist Hospital of Central Illinois, and the Preachers' Aid Society, through official action have asked not to be included in any immediate financial campaign which may be approved, but have expressed an interest in the public relations program.

Therefore, be it resolved that we recommend to the Conference, a Conference Campaign to raise $1,500,000, during the next three years, to be allocated as follows:

Illinois Wesleyan University	$550,000
Wesley Foundation at Urbana	550,000
Wesley Foundation at Normal	100,000
The Baby Fold	150,000
Sunset Home	150,000

Be it further resolved that initial funds not otherwise designated shall be apportioned to Illinois Wesleyan University and the Wesley Foundation at Urbana until each has received one-half of its expected goal; that additional funds shall be proportionately divided between the Wesley Foundation at Normal, The Baby Fold and Sunset Home, until each has received one-half of its expected goal, and that other funds received throughout the remainder of the campaign shall be divided between the participating institutions on a pro rata basis."

Following this action the Conference was flooded with excellent literature telling the story of each participating agency. Through this medium The Baby Fold was introduced to thousands of people and its story became known in countless homes. The value of this extensive and excellent promotion can not be measured by immediate returns. On the other hand basic ground work for a continuing program of public relations has been very effectively laid.

Up until September 1, 1950 the campaign had secured pledges and cash totalling $842,894.35. Under the priority system the two educational institutions had each received $226,521.41. Since this was less than half of their allocation, as provided by the priority, The Baby Fold has not yet shared in any general distribution. Designated gifts however, specified for The Baby Fold by the donors, have amounted to $53,792.15. This money has certainly helped to get the first building under way and to these good friends we are most grateful.

In addition to the publicity received through the United Methodist Movement and the personal field leadership of the Reverend Mr. Sedgwick, the over-all program of public relations is planned by an advisory committee under the chairmanship of Warren F. Shult. It is the purpose of this group to widen The Baby Fold's scope of influence and to tell its story from coast to coast.

Early in 1947 The Greenberg Publishers in New York brought forth one of the first and most complete volumes on adoption. Called "Adopting a Child", it was written by Frances Lockridge with the assistance of Sophie van S. Theis. In this excellent work the author lists The Baby Fold as one of the principal adoption agencies of the country. Since the book was written in New York state the nation-wide information used in making these ratings was secured through the United States Children's Bureau in Washington and from the various State Departments of Public Welfare. Reference is made to this fact because it indicates the high standard of adoptive service now attained by The Baby Fold.

Great progress in this direction has been made through the careful work of the Case Committee under the chairmanship of Mrs. I. J. Bower. The minutes of March 1, 1910 refer to the first need for such a committee. Here is the question under discussion at that time: "Mrs. Asher asked regarding accepting as members of the Home, illegitimate children under particular circumstances. Mr. Smith moved that a committee be appointed consisting of the superintendent and two local members of the Board of Managers who would confer regarding and take into consideration all questionable cases. Seconded and carried."

This matter has long since ceased to be a barrier to admission. It is also significant to note that at no time does the record indicate any discussion regarding the care of Negro children or of children coming from other denominational backgrounds. Today as the world struggles to save democracy and with it our Christian religion, we rejoice that this organization has always practiced the teachings of Jesus and the political philosophy of our founding fathers--with regard to race, creed and religion! Of the more than 6500 "little guests" passing through these portals many have been from minority groups; some Negroes, some Chinese, and various other races. Their religious background, or lack of it, has followed every conceivable pattern. All have been treated alike: as the children of one Heavenly Father.

The case committee covets a good home for every child that comes here. Where adoption is possible it is carefully planned and guided through final court action. Too many times legal barriers over which we have no control make adoption impossible. In these instances the child is kept in the institution until better plans can be made. Every effort is made to limit the period of institutional care to its very minimum, knowing full well that at its best it is a poor substitute for a home and family.

The Baby Fold was the first local children's agency to put this work on a trained, professional basis. The dealing with human emotions, rebuilding family groups, selecting new parents for children, counseling families and related tasks call for special skills and technical training. The casework approach to all of these problems--whether they be adoption or temporary care--is now firmly established as Baby Fold procedure. This is the very heart of all that is done here, hence no effort is spared to make it Christian service at its best.

The Board meeting on November 11, 1949 carried a sad note. On that date a farewell dinner was held for Dr. and Mrs. C. Carroll Jones and the doctor was presented with a Hamilton Gold wrist watch. For 14 years he had served as pediatrician, serving all of these children on a gratis basis. During this period of time he had always been willing and ready to meet every emergency! He and Miss Hogberg had worked out a health program which had given this institution a most enviable record.

The minutes of this meeting carry a full resolution of gratitude, which was prepared and introduced by Joseph W. DePew. In part it reads as follows: "Whereas this Institution he has served so long will miss him, not only in his professional capacity, but will miss his counsel and advice in the conduct of its affairs; and whereas, we recognize that

in his love of service, in his will to help in trying to get God's work done, there is, as in the case of all such men, a true spirit of humility. The spirit that makes them abhor display and ostentation, and creates in them a dread of thanks, And while we commend that spirit of humility, we the members of this Board feel that we cannot let his faithful service and his untiring devotion go unhonored and unsung."

Other members of the medical staff now serving on a gratis basis are Dr. O. L. Abbott, eye, ear and nose specialist; and Dr. John N. Wettaw, dentist. Both of these man have been generous with their time and specialized skills. Dr. O. H. Ball and others have contributed services for surgery when such has been needed. To place a monetary value on all of these gratuities would be impossible.

Dr. C. Richard Yoder succeeded Dr. Jones as our pediatrician and is giving the children most excellent attention. The Health committee at present consists of Mrs. I. J. Bower, Mrs. Naomi Gipson and Mrs. E. E. Atherton.

Reference has already been made to the Building Fund and to plans for a new plant. The United Methodist Movement provided some funds for this purpose and through the field work done by the Reverend Mr. Cole and the Reverend Mr. Sedgwick other funds were secured for this purpose. The committee in charge of this development consisted of M. E. Graff, chairman; Mrs. Ewald Schlenker, secretary; C. K. Jacobssen, Joseph W. DePew, Mrs. I. J. Bower and Mrs. F. Russell Glasener. The architect employed by the Board was Edgar E. Lundeen of the firm of Lundeen and Hilfinger.

On June 15, 1950 on recommendation of the committee, the Board awarded contracts totalling $129,411.28 for the completion of the exterior of the nursery building. Options in the contracts make it possible to complete the unit ready for occupancy at a total cost of $247,366.11. These options however, are not guaranteed at this price beyond January 1, 1951.

Dr. J. Fred Melvin, Superintendent of the Bloomington District of Methodist Churches, and president of The Baby Fold Board, presided at the ground-breaking ceremony on Thursday June 22nd at 4:30 P. M. Rev. Lloyde Strouse led the singing and Dr. Howard B. Oborn, director of the United Methodist Movement, led in prayer. The first ground was turned by Herman M. Salch, the first donor to the building fund and a long time friend of the institution. M. E. Graff, chairman of the Building Committee, and all local trustees participated in the ground-breaking proper. The general contractor, J. L. Wroan of Deer Creek, started work immediately on further excavation. If additional funds are secured by the end of 1950, the building should be completed by early summer in 1951. The new nursery will be completely fire-proof, modern in design and efficient in operation.

A word of special commendation is due to Dr. Melvin for his wise leadership as president of the Board of Trustees. He has been in the thick of our struggle with every ounce of strength, displaying a fine spirit and a sincere devotion to our common task. Pages could be

written about each Board member and the particular contribution of service each has made. Likewise, many staff members who have served so valiantly are left un-recorded not because of intentional oversight but because of lack of space. To all of these who have served so generously, hundreds of children, now adults, are grateful. And then too, the after-glow of satisfaction coming from such unselfish service is within itself the greatest recognition!

What has made Baby Fold care possible these many years? Its friends! Hundreds of small contributors make annual gifts and groups all over Illinois help to supply daily needs. These alone however, would not suffice. Only through the estate gifts and trusts of generous benefactors has this work actually survived. James H. Brevoort, Genevieve Moyer, Bruce B. Goodin and Thaddeus Stubblefield are but a few of those whose foresight and love have provided "the daily bread." These have all been modest bequests but taken collectively they have maintained a service station for little folks debt-free and beholden to no one person.

Jesus said "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." (John 12:24) This is more than a history; it is a human record of what love can do, what sacrifice means and what good prevails in the hearts of men. It is a record covering nearly half a century of time, highlighting men and women who have willingly "died" to selfish desires, in order that their lives might bring forth much fruit. They have all come into this fellowship through their own volition. Love has been their only compulsion!

Who follows in their train?

Official Roster

- October 1, 1950 -

The Board of Trustees

President - The Reverend J. Fred Melvin, D. D., Bloomington
Vice-president - Clarence K. Jacobssen, Bloomington
Secretary - Mrs. Ewald Schlenker, Bloomington
Treasurer - Warren F. Shult
Endowment Treasurer - M. E. Graff, Bloomington
Building Treasurer - R. R. Armstrong, Normal

Mrs. E. E. Atherton, Bloomington; Mrs. R. S. Bass, Decatur; Mrs. I. J. Bower, Bloomington; The Reverend Sam Buck, Pana; Mrs. Irene C. Bulkeley, Abingdon; The Reverend Harry A. Cochran, Monmouth; The Reverend I. S. Corn, Normal; The Reverend W. W. Cutlip, Streator; The Reverend Don R. Crocker, Champaign; The Reverend Walter F. Day, Decatur; Joseph W. DePew, Bloomington; Mrs. Naomi Gipson, Normal; Mrs. F. Russell Glasener, Normal; LeRoy Pike, Pontiac; Mrs. Mabel M. Riegel, Tolono; Mrs. Elton Shute, Beardstown; Mrs. Lucian Schweitzer, Peoria; The Reverend Gordon White, Pittsfield; The Reverend Morgan Williams, Kankakee; and Paul A. Wilson, Springfield.

The Staff

The Reverend and Mrs. William A. Hammitt, Superintendents
(William Morris, 7-24-41 David Bruce, 8-2-43)

The Reverend Charles W. Sedgwick, Field Director
(Phyllis Jean, 2-20-37) Roger Bennett, 11-13-43)

Miss Zoe Arends, Mrs. Ruby Bendschneider, Mrs. Emma S. Blackman, Mrs. Pauline Brigance, Miss Dolores Costello, Mrs. Lucy Cumpston, Miss Roberta Cutter, Andrew Everly, Miss Elaise Forrest, Mrs. R. L. Hartzler, Mrs. Evelyn Hirst, Miss Judith M. Hogberg, Keith Jolly, Miss Virginia Jordan, Mrs. Hattie Klawitter, Mrs. Hazel Lower, Robert Lower, Miss Ethel Meyers, Mrs. Charles H. Morrison, Mrs. Elsie Pemberton, Mrs. R. E. Potts, Miss Rosemary Roeder, Miss Joan Runge, Mrs. Alice Sauter, Miss Audrey Snow, Miss Mary Sparks, Miss Dorothy Spear, Miss Betty Jean Staley, Miss Alma Stine, Mr. and Mrs. Earl J. Sylvester, and Miss Mary Lou Wilkins.

The Author

The author of this historical statement about The Baby Fold is its present superintendent, Reverend William A. Hammitt. An ordained Methodist Minister, he was first appointed to his present post in 1939.

In 1943 Mr. Hammitt was active in promoting revision of the adoption statute of 1874. He and Mrs. Florence Fifer Bohrer of Bloomington served as co-chairmen of a voluntary state-wide committee seeking this objective.

Again in 1945 an even larger committee was organized under Mr. Hammitt's leadership. During this legislative session a new adoption law was finally passed. Although it failed to achieve all of the desired results it represented many significant gains.

In 1947 this same committee secured a number of important changes in the Child Welfare Act regulating the placement of children. At the present time the committee is yet active.

Mr. Hammitt is also a member of the Governor's Committee on Child Welfare, and an Illinois delegate to the Mid-Century Conference on Children and Youth to be held at The White House in December of 1950.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE DAY NURSERY

by

MRS. FRANK ALDRICH

THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE DAY NURSERY

by

Mrs. Frank Aldrich

Let us start with the year 1907.

The coal mine and the Chicago and Alton shops in Bloomington were employing many men, many of whom were born in foreign lands. These and others were being helped with the language and customs of their new country by the Americanization School. To assist with the family earnings, women worked at Beich's Candy Factory and as day help in homes. The problem was not un-employment but what to do with the pre-school age children while the mothers were, of necessity, helping to earn the living.

The Associated Charities, now the Bureau of Social Service, was the clearing house for all sorts of counsel and aid. Twenty volunteer women, known as the Friendly Visitors, really lived up to the name and it was by them that the need of a Day Nursery was suggested.

In December, 1907 a meeting was held to discuss the possibility of establishing a Day Nursery and each of the Friendly Visitors agreed to secure ten memberships at one dollar a year.

On December 19th a public meeting was called and over one hundred women enrolled as Charter Members and the Day Nursery Association was organized.

Two business men offered to pay rent of a small house at 1210 West Mulberry Street for one year and Miss Jennie Thompson was employed as Matron. In January, 1908, the public opening had a large attendance and the dream of a Day Nursery became a fact. Miss Thompson was untiring and ministered in countless ways to the families of the neighborhood. Young children were left at the Nursery for the day where they had lunch, play, a rest period and Kindergarten training. The fee was ten cents, sometimes five.

Some means had to be thought of to raise money for this growing project so, in 1909 the Day Nursery Board started a Woman's Exchange. The Union Gas and Light Company donated a counter in their business room but this was soon outgrown and the weekly sales of bakery goods and needlework were held in the rear of the Evans Brothers Grocery at the corner of Main and Monroe Streets. In May, 1910, it rented the lower floor of the Bloomington Club on East Washington Street where it operated a first class restaurant until 1926 when the first Community Chest was started and the Day Nursery could then obtain its funds through the annual Community Chest campaign.

The house at 1210 West Mulberry Street became too small and in 1912 the present property at 1312 West Mulberry was purchased. The small cottage was re-modeled and a second story was added.

The same year the Board took out articles of incorporation and became the Day Nursery and Social Settlement Association. The purpose was "to do benevolent work among and to promote the general welfare of the people in and near the city of Bloomington and to create and develop funds for defraying the expenses there-of".

In 1916 the Dispensary became an active project of the Association. A trained nurse gave generously of her time and skill, and seven Bloomington physicians donated their services to the Clinic. A room was equipped, examinations were made, tonsils were removed and small operations were performed there.

In 1924 Miss Jennie Thompson died and Miss Lila Reed was employed as Matron. By this time the house staff had been increased to include a housemother, janitor and day help. There were cooking and sewing classes each week for the older children of the neighborhood, the teachers being volunteers. There was also a Boy's Club under the auspices of the D. A. R. The attendance of the Nursery children was about eighty a week.

In 1928 Miss Lila Reed resigned and Miss Edith Bereman took over the duties of Manager and Field Director and, in 1949, she is still doing that work most ably and efficiently. The present staff consists of Manager, house keeper, two Kindergarten teachers, janitor and a cleaning woman. There are twenty Board members.

In 1941 the Association became an associate member of the National Association of Day Nurseries, Inc. and that organization has now been absorbed by the Child Welfare League of America.

At the Nursery children up to twelve years old are welcome. A committee from the Board, with Miss Bereman, decides on the applications and the family income and living conditions are inquired into to determine the necessity of care for the children and the fair charge. The average charge now is about twenty-five cents a day. The children stay all day, have their lunch, a rest period and supervised play and care. The sewing and cooking classes have been discontinued.

In 1936, with the co-operation of the City Health Department, a weighing station for infants and pre-school age children was established. The Day Nursery board members also help with the weighing station and immunization clinic at the Western Avenue Community Center. There and at the Nursery the McLean County Health Nurses are on call.

In its forty-one years the Day Nursery has fully justified the foresight of the Friendly Visitors and the organization functions as one of the valuable civic projects of Bloomington.

DAY NURSERY KINDERGARTEN

by

Vera Lamoreaux Bosworth

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When the Day Nursery was started on West Chestnut Street Miss Jennie Thompson was secured as field worker and Vera Lamoreaux, now Mrs. Wayne Bosworth, took over the kindergarten. The number of children attending ranged from twenty-five to sixty. They were nearly all of foreign parents and many spoke German, Czechoslovakian and Italian better than they did English. There were two little Czechoslovakian girls almost like twins with dresses to their ankles and little shawls around their shoulders. They were adorable but were not for adoption.

Miss Thompson and Vera Lamoreaux visited nearly all of the homes of the children in school. Many and varied were the experiences, and Miss Thompson found much work to be done in helping to better conditions.

As the people of this community learned to know Miss Jennie as she was called, they found her truly an Angel of Mercy. Whenever the call came, night or day, it was considered prompt-

ly, nothing was too trying or too difficult, and the community loved her dearly.

The Christmas celebration was always a big event in the Kindergarten. The women composing the board of Trustees came with dolls, balls and everything imaginable for the Christmas tree and party. Mrs. R.C. Baldwin and Mrs. Frank Aldrich were the two that helped a great deal with the celebration. Many women and girls in Bloomington offered their services to help in the Kindergarten. Miss Florence Green, Mrxx now Mrs. Robert Douglas of New York City was one of the steady helpers. There were also adult classes in about everything for the improvement and recreation of the community.

The Day Nursery was a big item in this community Center. The house with its nice yard furnished a home for the children whose mothers were working. A dear lady with white hair and a beautiful character (Mrs. Glines) gave them a hot lunch and then put them in cots for a rest. The mothers or fathers came for the children after working hours.

It was a very worth while project and everyone connected with it loved it because of the good being done. To drive through this community today one would not recognize it as the same one of many years ago. That the Day Nursery played a big part in this improvement there is no doubt.

ILLINOIS SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' CHILDREN'S SCHOOL

by

EDWARD S. PALMER

ILLINOIS SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' CHILDREN'S SCHOOL

by

Edward S. Palmer

THE ILLINOIS SOLDIERS' ORPHANS' HOME

In 1897 The Orphans' Home seemed to be almost in the country. The north side of Normal was sparsely settled and the nearest public transportation was the terminal of the street railway at Beaufort and Linden streets. The entrance gate of the Home was at Beech Street and bore the sign:

1861 THE ILLINOIS SOLDIERS' ORPHANS' HOME 1865

There were 96 acres in the Home grounds with the Main building, (which is still standing) the hospital, a two story brick school, a one story frame school, a training school building, a small cottage for the farmer, barn, pump house, and green house all east of the main building, and an engine room and laundry to the north.

The business of the Home was taken care of by three trustees, who were appointed by the governor and served without remuneration. These men came to the Home each month and there was a large room at the south east corner of the second floor which was called "the trustees room" and was always kept ready for their visits. Bert Kuhn of Bloomington was the treasurer and came to the trustees meeting each month, and at this time brought the payroll in cash.

The Home at this time had a carriage and team of horses for the superintendent and matrons' use and, of course, always met the trains and brought the trustees and any other dignitaries who might come to visit or inspect the Home.

Dr. N. K. McCormick of Normal was the Home physician and made daily visits. At this time Capt. Bassett was just finishing his term of office and Mr. Magner of Paris, Illinois was his successor, but only remained one year.

Having been employed as assistant farmer, I was much surprised when Mr. Magner informed me that there was a vacancy

in Boys' Hall, and that he wished me to take charge, and that he would take me to the hall and tell me my duties. Early the next morning he took me down through the mending room and slanting hall to the door, opened it and said, "This is your job", and left me there. Having never seen this room I was really bewildered. The hall was 60 by 40 feet in size, with a chair, a small table with a hand bell on it on a small raised platform, and just plain backless benches for the boys. I knew none of the children except two or three boys who had done some work with me on the farm. They rallied to my support and with their advice and help we were ready for breakfast when the bell rang to call us to the dining room.

The children ranged in age from 4 to 16 and there were over 300 of them, who spent their day in this one room.

The children were wakened by the whistle which blew two blasts at 5:30 and everyone was supposed to immediately leave their beds and get dressed and go to their respective halls at once to get ready for breakfast, which was served at 6:30 in a room just above Boys' Hall. After breakfast they returned to their hall and then went to their various duties if old enough to work; back to the hall by 8:30 to get ready for school at 9. Dinner was served at noon, and they were back in school from 1 to 4 p.m. Supper was served at 5:30. Bedtime was usually at 8 p.m.

As long as the children ate in a common dining room, the Home band assembled in the east end of the room and played marches as the children marched in to their respective tables; this seemed to make a great impression on all visitors who were privileged to be there at meal times.

The boys' clothing was a uniform of blue wool jeans with a straight cut jacket with a small standing collar and buttoned to the neck with brass buttons, blue shirt and a cap of military style. The shoes were all alike, made in the prisons, as were the uniforms. Each boy had two pairs of shoes, one pair kept "shined for Sunday" and put into a till in the mending room, with a change of underwear, long black stockings, and a shirt. The numbers on the clothes, in the shoes, and the hooks for their "best clothes", which hung in a room adjacent to the mending room, all corresponded. The boys were marched from the shower baths, which were adjacent to their hall, up through the halls to the mending room for their change of clothing.

At this period of time the barber came but once every quarter; so our boys looked very much alike. About the only difference in their appearance was whether they were blonde or brunette, tall or short, or heavy or lean.

The children were called into line by the bell (when not in school) to march to the playground where they were not permitted to get closer to the fence than 12 feet. In the

middle of the morning they were marched in line to the rest room which was at the end of a covered passageway north of their hall and which they called "The Tower", then to the bathroom for a drink and back to play - same routine in the afternoon.

We felt this was not making happy children so we had them go and come from the playground without interference but they were marched to school in line.

In 1898 I enlisted in the Spanish American War and upon my return, six months later, I resumed my work with the boys.

Col. Isaac Clements was the superintendent at this time but left in January, 1899, when he was appointed governor of the Soldiers' Home at Danville. Col. Clements was a very popular man with the employees, teachers, and children, and the news that he was leaving the Home was not happily received. Maj. and Mrs. McCauley arrived in the early spring of '99.

The boys were anxious for a military organization, so with Maj. McCauley's permission we soon had a batallion of four companys. The boys chose their officers and were very proud of their respective groups. We soon had dress parade each evening with the band playing the National Anthem as the colors were lowered at sundown. These were the horse and buggy days and many people drove to the Home for our dress parade.

The schools at this time were under Professor Boyer. There was a kindergarten and the eight grades were taught. The children took the county central examination upon completing the 8th grade as the children in rural schools did.

The girls of the home were under the same rules as the boys and were housed at the southeast end of the first floor. Their clothes too were uniforms. The "everyday dresses" were of heavy blue cotton cheviot with long sleeves, full skirts, and buttoned in back. They wore a coverall apron made of blue checked cotton, with long sleeves, peter pan collar, half belt in back and buttoned from collar to hem in back. Their "Sunday Dress" was made of blue flannel in the winter, over which they wore white coverall aprons. Their hair was at this time all cut alike - "just shingled".

The head of the boys and girls departments made a quarterly detail for the children old enough to work. Some worked in the mending room, dining room, kitchen, dormitories, on the farm, in the laundry - in fact wherever there was work suited to their age.

The boys slept in west wing dormitories, on third and fourth floors and the girls in east wing on third and fourth floors.

There was a small nursery on third floor across the hall from the chapel in which the babies slept. There were both girl and boy babies and they were cared for by girl attendants. The employees were under very strict rules as well at this time. They were required to be in their rooms at 10 p.m., as at that time "lights were out". By very special permission you might be allowed to come in later. All doors were locked and the only night entrance was through second hall where the officers and superintendent's living quarters were located. Those who had charge of the children were on duty from 5:30 a.m. until the children were in bed, except one half day per month which was given you to do your shopping and tend to any business you might have and to see your family and friends. All this for $20 to $25 per month. However Mr. and Mrs. McCauley later relaxed these rules and made life much more pleasant for both employees and children. They also had the iron bars taken off windows and removed the iron gates in the halls, which had given the home much the appearance of a prison. Religious services were held in the chapel on third floor. Sunday school at 9:30 on Sunday with Dr. John Reece in charge and Mrs. Cornelia Reeder at the organ, (the school had a pipe organ at this time). Mrs. Reeder walked to the Home, played for Sunday School, then walked to the corner of Beaufort and Linden streets and took the street car to Bloomington where she was church organist for many years. She was back again at 2:30 for church service. This was quite a feat compared to this time when we ride from here to everywhere. The church service was taken care of by local ministers. The Catholic children met with their priest in the reception room in second hall at the same time. A song service was held on Thursday evening with Dr. Reece in charge and Mrs. Reeder again at the organ.

Because of their many years of service as teachers in the Sunday School, the names of Mr. and Mrs. Alphens Dillon of Normal should not be omitted from the story of the religious life in the school.

In 1899 a new hospital was built west of the main building and the old hospital was remodeled to house the Kindergarten on first floor and employees rooms on second. In 1901 an addition was built east of main building but connected thereto. This was to be a vocational school. The first floor was to be a sewing room and is still used as such, the second floor a domestic science kitchen but is now used as a superintendent's kitchen. The first five cottage for girls were built on the south side of the street leading east from main building and were named for famous Illinois men - Lincoln, Grant, Logan, Oglesby, and Yates. These cottages were a great improvement as they took the girls from the congregate plan into home groups, but they had no kitchen or dining room so the girls were compelled to go to the main building for their meals regardless of weather.

After the girls were moved into their new cottages the younger boys were moved into what had been the girls' quarters and were under the care of Mr. and Mrs. John Yeakle for many years.

We were now beginning to have organized athletics with football, basketfall, and baseball. The Superintendent and Matron were very much in favor of these things but there were no funds available from the state for this project.

Quoting from the Superintendent's report in 1907: "Our boys have made quite a record for themselves during the last two years in baseball, basketball, and football. They are the champions of the McLean County Sunday School League, winning the trophy, a beautiful solid silver loving cup, which was publicly awarded them and is now the property of the Home. The Sons of Veterans and their auxiliary, The Ladies Aid, by their liberal contributions have made it possible to provide all athletic supplies, even providing money to purchase suits for both baseball and basketball teams. Mr. Edward S. Palmer has been their coach and had general management of the teams. The girls are strong also in basketball, croquet, etc. We very much need a gymnasium where our boys and girls could have physical training."

The Department convention of the Woman's Relief Corps had voted $170.00 to buy instruments for our band of 16 members. The boys attended the Department conventions of the G.A.R. each year and provided much entertainment for the veterans. The band and a chorus of 50 girls furnished both instrumental and vocal music for Memorial Day for the G.A.R. Posts of Normal and Bloomington.

During these years the G.A.R., Woman's Relief Corps, and the Ladies of the G.A.R. took care of Christmas for the children. Many beautiful gifts were received as well as some very noisy ones. So life in the halls during Christmas vacation was sometimes quite nerve racking, but very enjoyable too.

The Home Laundry burned at 3:00 a.m. on March 10, 1907 and had the wind been unfavorable the whole institution would probably have been lost as the equipment for fire fighting was very meager.

We were justly proud of the fire drill which I had organized shortly before by order of the superintendent. Every employee was at his post and dormitories were emptied and roll call was held within six minutes time. There was but one boy missing, a mentally retarded boy, who hid instead of keeping with his group. He was found and thrown into the tubular style fire escape and came out smiling. The children were taken to the hospital basement until the fire was extinguished and they were then returned to their beds.

The legislature adjourned before an appropriation was made so the laundry had to be "sent out".

At this time the law was revised so that any dependent child under 8 years of age, who had lived in Illinois for four years could be admitted to the Home. During July and August any child who had a home was permitted to go there and in the summer of 1908 the superintendent allowed us to take the boys who were left there (about 82) on a camping trip to Kappa on the Mackinaw River. At that time there was a pavilion on the grounds and we slept on blankets on the floor and cooked the meals over camp fires. Such an outing was unheard of for the orphans and was truly a thrilling experience for them even though they were only 12 miles from hime.

The children very seldom left the grounds, the supervisor of the girls' department kept a candy cupboard so they could buy some sweets when they had the change. It was a losing venture some of the time, as there were "break-in", but she would restock and start over.

Mr. John Dekin had been the night watchman for many years, and when he married, Mrs. Dekin was made night watchwoman in the girls' dormitory and John kept watch over the boys and the grounds. Mr. Dekin was at the Home before the start of this story and remained until his death.

By this time the Normal Loop of the street railway system had been built, but the nearest sidewalk was down Beech to Sycamore and then west to Linden Street. The state at this time purchased the right of way from W.W. Bright and L. Duffin and opened Lincoln Street from Beech to Linden. The day the street was officially opened, the children, band, employees, and Superintendent all marched to Linden street and back to celebrate. This celebration was marred somewhat by the fact that we frightened a team of mules a farmer was driving and caused them to run away.

It was quite a change to walk just from the Home gate to Linden and catch the loop for town. However, it took 15 minutes to reach Normal and then 20 minutes to the square in Bloomington.

The state course of study was now being used, and as the children were permitted to remain at the Home for a longer period of time, they were sent to Normal High after graduating from 8th grade. In 1908 two girls were given another extra year so they might complete 2 years work at State Normal, after which they started teaching school The Home School was now under the direction of the Matron, Mrs. McCauley. Due to lack of appropriations the trustees had abolished the office of Superintendent of Schools.

The teachers in the literary department at this time were: Miss Sadie Merna, Miss E. Julia O'Malley, Miss Maude E.

Dennis, Miss Alice Elvin, Mrs. Nettie Hammhill, Miss Lucy Pollock, and Miss Ellen McGinnis. Miss Grace Reaney was kindergarten teacher; Miss Edith Allen Domestic science; Frank S. Cogswall, woodwork, and John Armstrong, Blacksmith. Miss Mary A. M. Jansen was listed as supervisor of manufacturing department, which to us meant the sewing room.

The children by this time had been given some individuality by having at least a part of their clothes of their own choice. The hair cutting was done in the institution by the supervisor of boys whenever needed, so the boys looked well-groomed and the girls were allowed to wear their hair in different styles, and the beautiful hair ribbons made a very pretty scene in chapel or wherever they were congregated. There was a great deal of rivalry about these hair ribbons.

The brothers and sisters were allowed to visit together on Sunday afternoons and every boy and girl really wished for a brother or sister as the case might be.

Times were changing and parties and entertainment were provided and the boys and girls learned more about how other girls and boys lived. During one year the employees and the children put on a very excellent minstrel show and were invited to give this show in adjacent towns. John Yeakel who had been the institution baker was the stage manager for all our entertainments in chapel and his magic lantern shows were the delight of the children.

The boys and girls spent several evenings each week in the library under the excellent care of Mrs. Ella Barlow.

The employees were all much interested in the athletic teams and all helped to give parties, banquets, etc. for these boys. There was a very fine spirit of good fellowship between the children, employees, teachers, and the superintendent and matron. Mrs. McCauley was the last superintendent's wife to serve as matron.

In 1913 there was a change of administration and Capt. Bassett was again in charge, but remained only two years because of ill health. Mr. W. H. Claggett now took charge for another two years. Mrs. Alice Montgomery was appointed Matron and held this position until she retired in 1927. The new gymnasium was started in 1916.

Now came World War I and as far as is known there were 81 ex Home boys in service. Three were reported lost but one of this number visits in our home each year so that leaves but 2.

In December 1917 John W. Rodgers of Bloomington was appointed Superintendent and served for four years. Much progress was made during this time. The first full time dentist, Dr. Henry McCormick was employed. Dr. J. K. P.

Hawks, who had been Home physician since 1907 was in military service, and in November 1918, Dr. Ralph Peairs was made part time physician.

The children were now having two movies per month.

The Department of Public Welfare was created in 1918, replacing the Board of Managers. The schools were now under the supervision of I.S.N.U. and during the school year of 1918-1919 there were 8 regularly employed teachers, outside student teachers in Kindergarten, primary and upper grades.

In 1920 a contract was let for a new ten room school, also a contract for one new cottage for girls. The children now had many more liberties as well as advantages.

Ralph Spafford was appointed managing officer in 1922 and served until 1933.

As I.S.N.U. was in charge of the schools, the 8th grade graduates were attending University High.

In the spring of 1924 a pageant by the music department was given on the campus for the Department of Illinois U.S.W.V. who were holding their annual encampment in Bloomington.

During 1924 the Department of Illinois, American Legion, gave $1,000.00 for new band uniforms and the band, under the leadership of Prof. H. O. Merry was an excellent organization.

A new power plant and two cottages for boys were under construction at this time. Upon completion of the power plant the old plant was remodeled to house the institution store rooms and a modern cold storage plant installed in the same building. The old store room was remodeled and now houses the institution bakery.

Seventy-five boys of the school had the use of the Y.M.C.A. pool and were given a course of swimming lessons through the courtesy of the instructor at the Y. By this time each child had a little bank account in his own name.

In 1925 the school was selected as one of the beneficiaries of the Chicago Daily News Radio fund. A complete master radio was received in June. The cost of installing this equipment was financed by the Department of Illinois American Legion. Outlets for loud speakers were placed in all the cottages, boys' hall, chapel, isolation quarters, and the hospital building.

A beautiful wading pool was dedicated in June, 1925, and was the gift of Illinois Auxiliary of the U.S.W.V. The pool was built at a cost of $500.00, and included an aquarium, an ornamental drinking fountain, and cement benches. One hundred or more little tots were refreshed here on warm days.

During 1925 the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Illinois gave the Home two beautiful pianos, a number of fine violins including a violincello and also financed the private instruction of eight pupils in music. The auxiliary also gave several hundred volumes of children's books to the library.

A new march "Illinois" was written for and dedicated to our band by Dr. Woods of Lasalle, Illinois. During the year the children heard in their own auditorium several artists and musicians of note, including Kathryn Brown, mezzo-soprano of the Chicago Civic Opera Company, and Granville English, noted concert pianist.

In 1925 there was one boys' cottage built and the outdoor swimming pool was dedicated on July 24, 1925. The dedication of the new hospital was held on August 23, 1925.

In 1926 the school's enrollment was the largest to date, with a total number of 500 in spring term and 30 students in University High. Eighth grade graduates numbered 16 boys and 9 girls and during the summer term 72 girls were enrolled in the domestic arts department.

The boys in the manual training department, after supplying the various departments of the Home with toys sent a large box of toys to Normal Baby Fold and The Bloomington Day Nursery.

The American Legion auxiliary presented the Home with a beautiful Credenza Model Orphophonic Victrola for use in connection with the radio circuits. Troop 5 Boy Scouts earned a two weeks camping trip at Camp TaTa Pochow located on the Mackinaw River near Lexington, Illinois.

Eighty girls who made satisfactory progress in school and in gymnastic classes were rewarded with a week of camp life in Franklin Grove on the Mackinaw River.

A new playground was made just east of boys' cottage row for about 165 boys, between the ages of 5 and 10. The equipment was a gift of the American Legion and Auxiliary, United Spanish War Veterans, and the Sons of Veterans. The auxiliary of the U.S.W.V. contributed funds necessary to repair playground devices on the girls' playground and purchased Lawn Swings for each of the girls' cottages. The American Legion Auxiliary planted nearly 900 shrubs and a number of trees. They also contributed a large number of children's books, including recent editions of standard dictionaries, encyclopedias, and a large Bible for use in Chapel.

A junior fire department was organized, and regular periods in instruction in the use of fire apparatus were given. The organization was under the direction of Mr. Fred Brown, formerly a fireman in the Navy.

There was one new boys' cottage built in 1926. In 1927 there were two boys' cottages built and also one girls' cottage. In 1929 two more boys' cottages were built and the law was changed so the school was again to be a home only for the children of ex-service men.

On May 21, 1930 the construction for two buildings was started. The west wing contained 8 classrooms and the east wing, an auditorium, completely equipped, with a seating capacity for 850 children.

By this time the approximately 50 acre tract laying just south of the Home was purchased from Reuben Bright and the institution now had 107 acres under cultivation.

The contract for 8 cottages for children of pre-school age was let on June 14, 1930. These buildings attract a great deal of attention, four on each side of a wide lawn, Normandy style, one story high, red tile roofs, white birch walls with red wood work and shutters. Each cottage accomadated 15 children with a dormitory, play room, dining room, kitchen, and the matron's apartment. Floors were laid in designs for children's games, fireplaces were flanked with Mother Goose figures. There were two boys' cottages and a model nursery built in 1930-31.

On June 18, 1931 by act of the general assembly the Home was hereafter to be known as "The Illihois Soldiers and Sailors Children's School".

The first five girls' cottages were now remodeled and a kitchen and dining room was added to each. The children's meals were cooked in the general kitchen but were delivered in covered containers for each meal to be served from their own kitchens.

After the children were all taken from the group plan to their several cottages, the children's dining room was remodeled into a cafeteria, where all employees, not on duty in the cottages, eat their meals.

Two new 150 horsepower boilers were installed at the power plant, ready to meet the increasing demands for heating and lighting. Fuel gas mains were extended from the city mains to the institution grounds. The general kitchen, officers' kitchen, and domestic science department of the school were equipped with gas ranges.

The receiving cottage was moved from the basement of the old hospital to the first floor. This work was done with institutional labor at moderate cost, as was the entire third floor of administration building into 20 comfortable rooms for employees. The population at this time numbered 649 children, Civil War 4, Spanish War 74, Regular Army 22,

World War I 434, other dependents 115, and there were 272 other children living in foster homes.

There was much progress in this period in the development of vocational facilities. The electric, wood working, and sheet metal shop, the bakery, and laundry all provided opportunity for its combination of academic and vocational work.

The Kindergarten children were divided into two groups - four and five year olds and Kindergarten was held in the school building. It was under the direction of Miss Grace Tucker for many years. Miss Tucker gave herself untiringly for the children.

Now came the depression, but it made little change for the children. Food and clothing were as usual. In fact, many times the remark was heard to the effect that the children of I.S. & S.C. were among the best dressed in U. High. The employees wages were cut 10% at this time.

An event of 1932 was the construction of a recreation lodge by the Department of Illinois American Legion Auxiliary. The plans were first drafted for a log cabin but the state architect felt that the building should be of similar architecture of other buildings so that plan was abandoned. This building, costing nearly $5,000 was presented to the state as a place where the children might have recreation other than in their cottages.

In 1933, J. Howard Russell was appointed as managing Officer and served until 1940 when he went into active service. During Mr. Russell's administration the American Legion and Auxiliary and the U.S.W.V. and their auxiliary were very active in making life more enjoyable for the children. The Legion sponsored a pilgrimage every summer with members and families from all over the state coming to the school. It was a big day - lots of entertainment, gifts, food and fun.

The U.S.W.V. and auxiliary also made a pilgrimage to the school and as one of the boys remarked: "It's sure a big day. Food, fun, and gifts all day long!"

The first full time resident pediatrician came to the school June 1, 1934 - Dr. Arthur Shafton.

New kitchen equipment was purchased and a new 32 passenger bus was provided in spring of '36 to transport groups of children on outings of various kinds. A modern fully equipped fire truck was also purchased with a capacity of 500 gallons per minute. Two new buildings were erected in 1936 as a P.W.A. project. One of the buildings is 51 by 90 and is a modern swimming pool. The other is 55 by 142 and houses the vocational shops.

During this term of the P.W.A. project employment was furnished here for 250 people, making an aggregate payroll of $65,634.53. The school offered employment for as large a group of workers as could be properly handled on the campus to aid the activities of W.P.A., I.E.R.C., C.W.A. etc.

During this period in the school a great deal of attention was given to recreation and a very worth while program was in evidence.

In 1937 the swimming pool and vocational shop were in use and the new hospital addition was completed and the Receiving cottage was now moved into the hospital. The old Receiving cottage was remodeled with the condemning room, show shop, and barber shop on first floor, and the upper floor into attractive rooms for employees.

In 1937 a director of religious education, Dr. Pearcy, was added to the academic staff. He is an ordained minister and in addition to his position as pastor of the children's church, teaches classes in character education and guidance for the Protestant children of the school.

The old chapel has been remodeled and decorated and is used for worship by the children of the Catholic faith. Holy Trinity church of Bloomington has assumed the responsibility of furnishing instruction to the Catholic children of the school.

New roadways of black top construction with concrete gutters were laid in 1939 over approximately two thirds of the entire road system. Lawns were graded to the road and shrubbery planted. The appearance of the entire institution was greatly improved as a result.

During 1940 a number of boys of the school joined the Illinois National Guard and Citizen's Military Training Corps.

Of major importance to the employees at the school was a union of employees, affiliated with the A.F. of L. formed in 1940. With the cooperation of state and school officials better working conditions with fewer hours were put into effect.

Major Russell now left for active military service and was succeeded by William E. Hogan as managing officer.

From December, 1940 until March, 1941 there was an epidemic of rheumatic fever. In a cardiac survey it was found that 35% of the children had definite rheumatic heart disease. In order to properly provide for these cases, Mr. Rodney H. Brandon and Governor Green approved the remodeling of a cottage, at a cost of $9200.00 to be set up as a cardiac convalescent cottage and the children were transferred from the hospital to this cottage on September 1, 1941. A special teacher had been assigned to this group and the children were given regular daily instruction in school fundamentals.

The Legion Pilgrimage of 1941 had brought quite an unusual visitor, Hezekiah Ray of Des Moines, Iowa, who was 83 years of age, and had lived at the Home from 1870 to 1874. Mr. Ray was quite fascinated by the changes that had taken place.

The older boys had two very special days in the fall of 1941 when they were privileged to see a White Sox ballgame on Thursday and a Cub game on Saturday of the first week of September.

In October 1941, a large group of children attended a concert given by the U.S. Marine Band at I.S.N.U. and in December, 16 boys attended the International Livestock Show in Chicago.

A total of 66 boys and 15 girls were attending University High at this time. In addition to these 74 had been placed in foster homes and were attending high schools throughout the state.

In January 1942, a defense council meeting was held, at which time, war time plans were made for the school. Also at this time employees were asked to buy Defense Bonds, amounting to 2% of salary. A Red Cross unit was organized and was to be Branch #1 of the Bloomington unit. Memorial services were held on January 4, 1942 for former home boys lost in the war.

During the war Mrs. Clayton Townsend, who is the house mother in Cantigny Cottage, corresponded with every boy who had lived in that cottage, if their address could be found. This was quite an undertaking, but gave the boys a tie with home, which they so much needed while in service.

In January 1942, the first Personnel Director was appointed for I.S. & S.C.S., Mr. Charles Carnahan of Lexington, Illinois.

In March 1942, regulations on vehicles to be used at the Institution for the duration of the war were received as follows: one fire truck, one tractor, one truck and one omnibus for taking High School children to school. All other motor vehicles to be stored and tires from those used if possible. The managing officer, Mr. Hogan, asked that every one make an effort to comply with rules and regulations set forth for conservation of all articles. During this time all employees were being finger-printed.

Mrs. Ashbrook who had been assistant managing officer for a number of years left the school in April 1942.

The matter of returning A.W.O.L. children to the home became a problem due to the tire shortage during the war.

Miss Harriet Hallam of Bloomington returned to the school as Dean of Girls and is still filling that position.

In May 1942, Superintendent Hogan entered service and William F. Thorpe of Lake Forrest, Illinois, was his successor. Mr. Thorpe asked for the cooperation of everyone as that was the only way his goal could be reached and that he thought much of the disturbance among the children was due to the unrest all over the world.

In June, 1942, a Legion Post of Chicago gave the children of the village a merry-go-round.

A meeting of the firemen and Air Raid Wardens was held in Mr. Carnahan's office on July 16, 1942, to discuss policies for the school.

Following are some suggestions which were handed to the cottage mothers: "Sheets should be mended to the Nth degree; all old table cloths that were past the mending stage should be cut and hemmed for napkins. Old towels should be folded and stitched together and made into dish rags. Any material that could be hemmed and made into dish cloths should be salvaged." On July 20th the institution was ordered to save all tin cans for salvage.

The matter of group hospital insurance was brought to the attention of employees and membership in the Blue Cross Plan was accepted.

The week of July 27th was looked forward to with eager anticipation as Wallace Bros. Circus was to be in town and were to entertain the children under the "Big Top".

In August of 1942 the population of the school was down to 426, the lowest since 1924. The drop in population was felt due, in part at least, because many families were able to take care of their children due to the high wages in Defense Plants. Mr. Charles Reed was the new chief clerk.

Dr. Robert Black, who was head of the children's division at Mercy Hospital, Loyola University, and La Rabida Heart Sanatorium visited the cardiac patients in Horner Hall and was much impressed with the wonderful work being done there, and of course this was a great lift to every one at the institution.

On September 8, 1942 Dr. Gamer was welcomed to the school as the new director of Religious Education replacing Dr. Pearcy who was now a chaplain in the U.S. Army.

In September, 1942, Mr. Thorpe made a special plea for conserving food, clothing, metal, school supplies, glass and electric light bulbs, and said that meatless days would soon come to the school and that everyone's cooperation would help to win the war and at the same time give us a good school.

On November 9, 1942, two former school inmates: Miss Edna Canerdy, daughter of Mrs. Edgar Fuller of Beason, and First Sgt. Lloyd Fuller son of Edgar Fuller of Beason were married, in the first marriage ever held on the grounds of the school. The couple were to live at Ft. Bragg.

In December 1942, the school received a letter from W.L.S. that if we desired they would present the school with a wheel-chair. As a chair was needed the offer was gratefully accepted.

The Christmas festivities began on December 21 when a minature stage play was given by the children at 10 a.m. sponsored by the Service League. On Christmas morning 14 members of the Louis E. Davis post of American Legion had breakfast at the school at 6:30, after which they went to the various cottages to serve as Santas in distributing gifts.

The effects of war were evident in the school. The shoe situation was very bad and the chief clerk, Mr. Reed, told the officials that fewer and fewer bids were being received for merchandise.

Beginning January 1, 1943, a 5% Victory Tax was to be deducted from the payroll.

On January 17, 1943, Father Moore of Holy Trinity Church held a memorial service for Edwin Sipkowsky, a former student of I.S. & S.C.S. who was lost in an airplane accident off the coast of Puerto Rico on December 31, 1942.

In February of 1943 plans for an agricultural course at the school were discussed as it was thought this was of great importance, especially in view of war conditions and the help it would be to children who were out in foster homes. Mr. Harpster hoped to secure a full time teacher for this course thereby working up to 4H Club work.

Ration books were much in the picture at this time and the employees were notified that the O.P.A. would be around very soon to check whether all employees had turned their books over to the Institution.

In December two new employees, who were greatly needed, were added to the staff, Miss McElvaine, supervisor of Social Service and Miss White, Recreational Director.

The holiday program got into action on Friday, December 24, with a dedication ceremony for the new recreation center at Harbord Cottage. The new recreational program was begun on December 27. Miss White was assisted by Miss Newhirter, recreational worker, Jack Escorcia, proctor, Senior at I.S.N.U., and Margaret Aunulles and Ada Pritchett, seniors at U. High. All cottage parents as well as officials of the school had high hopes as to the help this new center would give the children.

All departments of the school were handicapped badly by the epidemic of respiratory infections which was sweeping our entire country. Dr. Cline presented a detailed explanation of the treatment needed and it was hoped we soon would be free of this and affairs moving as usual.

On January 1, 1944, the State Employees Retirement system of Illinois was established and pensions were to be paid to eligible state employees, beginning on January 1, 1947.

In January, 1944, Mr. Charles E. Marquis came to the school as chief clerk and is filling that position ably as this story closes. Also in this month Mr. Chris Harpster, who had so ably served as school principal, resigned to take a position in Springfield. The recreation program was functioning beautifully and the benefit to the children of planned recreation was more apparent each day.

On February 4, the Bloomington Chief of Police, Mr. Hibbens, talked to the children at school assembly on "Misdemeanors Committed by Children". All cottage parents were urged to attend this assembly and also the church service on the following Sunday when Dr. Gamer talked to the children on the subject of "Snitching".

The 85 acre farm belonging to John Weldon, north of the home was purchased by the state and possession given March 1. This enabled the farmer to raise more food and a beef raising program was started to furnish meat for the school.

The plans for summer school program were already being discussed and the schedule was compiled to conform with the schedule at I.S.N.U. School was dismissed on June 10th and summer sessions began on July 5. Commencement exercises were not held until August 25th which was the end of the 8 weeks summer session.

The Fall school program started on September 11th.

With the arrival of a 1500 lb. shipment of frozen foods including peas, lima beans, cauliflower, spinach, berries, apricots, cocanut, and the butchering of 8 hogs the food situation was very good as of February 14, 1944.

The number of children known to have served during World War II is 356 boys and 6 girls. Bertie Harris was the first girl from the school to enlist in service and was followed by Irene Burroughs, Dorothy Fogarty, Navy Madio, Hazel Morton, and Elinor Zimmerman. As far as is known there were no casualties among the girls and the known casualties among the boys are 19.

The new principal of schools, Mr. Reusser, assumed his duties at the school replacing Mr. Harpster, who had resigned earlier in the year.

In May, 1944, the state department of the American Legion appropriated $1500.00 for the purchase of new uniforms for the school band.

On the Sunday before Memorial Day in 1944 services were held in memory of all I.S. & S.C.S. killed in action in the present war.

During the summer of 44 there were six boys who had regualr employment away from the school and the reports concerning these boys from their employers were very favorable.

The older boys and girls of the school had been allotted a tract of 130 acres of corn near the school by the Michael Leonard Seed Co. for detasseling. The rate to be paid was 60¢ per hour with time and a half for Sunday work. The children were taken to and from their work, and their meals, in the school bus, the expense of which was paid by the seed company.

In July of '44 Charles Reed left the school to take up his duties at the training school for boys at St. Charles Illinois and was succeeded by Harrison Dobbs of Chicago, Illinois as superintendent.

The recreation program was deemed extremely important by all staff members as well as the cottage parents during the two weeks vacation period and Miss White, the recreation director announced that 33 children had attended picnic parties at Miller Park, 74 had made trips to Lake Bloomington, and 77 attended special movie parties. The older boys baseball team suffered defeat from the Portable Elevator Co. team; however, the tournament for younger boys had met with decided success.

Sheridan cottage girls were to spend a day in a nearby town on September 18, with a fried chicken dinner and watermelon as the highlights.

The health program of the school was extensively discussed in the early fall of '44 and four major points were named: (1) General instruction to the cottage parents and employees responsible for personal habits and hygiene of the children. (2) Course of instruction for children directly, including units on safety, first aid, and personal hygiene. (3) Overall curative and preventative medical program with an in-service training for personnel of hospital; definite plan for periodic examinations of children by specialists. (4) Manual to acquaint relatives and interested persons with the type of health program that governs the school. This would serve a double purpose - (a) To prevent our children from directly contacting contagion or ill health. (b) To help relatives and friends to understand why we do sometimes have to curtail visits.

At this time the plan for children who wished to work, being employed outside of the school was being very much discussed. Mr. Dobbs posed these questions. I. Is this a good plan and would it begin a sound policy? 2. What are the resources that we should tap in order that we could have a plan of short time jobs? What should be the remuneration, and how should the money earned by handled? 3. What are the hazards when considering this type of plan? These questions were duly considered and a workable plan was put into active use and many of the older children accumulated a sizeable bank account which was taken care of through the business office. The children had a deposit book which contained deposits and withdrawals.

The Junior Red Cross had made menu cards, tray covers, score cards, and similar favors to be used in Veteran's Hospitals.

The Girl Scouts had done a grand job of furnishing cookies and popcorn balls to the Canteen at the Alton Depot. They were rewarded with a trip to the canteen at train time to see how refreshments were given to the service men on board the trains.

Mr. Dobbs continued as Superintendent of the school until September 1945 when he again took up his teaching career.

L. R. Gerber came to the school in September, 1945, but in January, 1946 was transferred to the Eye and Ear Infirmary in Chicago. James R. Cretcher was appointed as superintendent in January 1946 and served the school until September 1948, when he resumed his career in public school teaching.

At the close of the summer session in 1946, Miss May Goodwin retired from teaching. The children thereby suffered a distinct loss as Miss Goodwin was ever ready and willing to assist at any and all times her boys and girls.

On January 1, 1947 my connection with the school was severed as our retirment system was now in effect, ending fifty years of interrupted work with the school. So inevitably on these past three years I have little to offer about the history of I.S. & S.C.S.

Laurence J. East came to the school in September 1948, and all things seem to be well organized and working smoothly at this time.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY
1949 - 50

Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's School

Heusser, John L.	Principal
Baker, Gladys E.	Fifth Grade
Bauer, Veda B.	Mathematics
Claus, John R.	Agriculture
Drum, Blanche	Ass't. Librarian
Erbes, Gertrude	Vocal Music
Freese, Joseph	Printing
Gienapp, Augusta	Librarian
Gleisner, Roland	English
Gray, Rolland O.	Metal
Hardine, Doris	Instrumental Music
Houghton, J. Edgar	Wood
Hougham, Janet C.	First Grade
Hoyt, Edith L.	Fourth Grade
Hughes, Leland E.	Agriculture
Kepner, Clara	Fourth Grade
Knuppel, Fred J.	Arts and Crafts
Knuppel, Margaret	Home Economics
Koenig, Lucile	Sixth Grade
McMillion, Fay	Secretary
Miner, Margie J.	Girls Physical Education
Mizer, Orrin J.	Assistant Principal
Park, Leslie	Boys Physical Education
Parret, Margaret	Speech
Pmuphrey, Mable	Fifth Grade
Sanders, Herbert	Instrumental Music
Shea, Josephine	Sixth Grade
Sheveland, Alice	Third Grade
Tarrant, Thalia	Second Grade
Ryden, Verner	Social Studies
Phipps, Jean	Home Economics
Goodwin, Mae	Ass't. Principal - retired
Anderson, Grace	Second Grade - deceased
Tucker, Grace	Kindergarten - deceased
Ralston, Alice	First Grade
O'Conner, Gertrude	Special Rooms
Kelley, Mildred	Sixth Grade
Saronrim, Rosemary	Social Studies
Pearcy, Henri	Chaplin
Riggs, Ralph	Social Studies
Zirkle, Mark	Janitor
Gottschalk, Louis	Janitor

EDWARD S. PALMER

Biographical Sketch

Edward S. Palmer was born in Empire township, McLean County on May 27, 1875, the son of John R. and Sara Saunders Palmer. The family moved to Normal on March 13, 1887, where he attended grade and high school.

He enlisted in the Spanish American War on April 27, 1898. Upon returning to Normal he resumed his work at I.S. & S.C.S.

Mr. Palmer was married to Miss Emma Naffziger of Danvers on December 28, 1898 and they were the parents of six children, four of who are living.

Mr. Palmer retired from State Service on January 1, 1947, with a record of 36 3/4 years of interrupted service, most of which was spent in working with his boys, many of whom return year after year to visit with him.

THE LUCY ORME MORGAN HOME

by

MRS CLARA DEMOTTE MUNCE

LUCY ORME MORGAN HOME
BY
CLARA DEMOTTE MUNCE

The Lucy Orme Morgan Home was chartered March 12, 1889 and was known as the Woman's Industrial Home of McLean County.

The first officers were president Mrs. Ellen M. Light, vice president Mrs. Lydia McCoy, secretary Miss Mattie M. Marble, corresponding secretary Mrs. Louise Wood, treasurer Mrs. Mary C. White, Mr. Edmund O'Connell auditor. Judge Thomas Tipton was elected legal advisor. A board consisting of thirty members of Bloomington and towns in McLean County were very active in securing donations of various kinds besides money and there was a membership fee of three dollars. Five trustees were elected, they were Col. D. C. Smith of Normal, D. M. Funk, P. Kealey, Dr. Knapp of Bloomington and Mr. Van Ordstrand of Heyworth. Dr. Louise Crothers was elected physician and upon her recommendation a consulting staff of physicians were also elected, these were Dr. Elder, Dr. Taylor and Dr. Rhoda Galloway.

The first home was located at 807 W. Market Street and was rented for the sum of $16.66 2/3 per month. Mrs. Sarah E. Walker of Normal was the first matron and her salary was $15.00 per month. She brought her household furniture with her and a small rental was paid her for the use of it.

Many were the problems to be faced and the finances were one of the largest. Mrs. Walker did not stay very long and when she resigned she took her furniture and that was a loss, but different friends donated furnishings and the crisis was met.

In the beginning no woman or girl who was helpless, homeless or needy was turned from the door, so that family varied, there was one lady 87 years old in the home, also infants and children.

At the first annual meeting Mrs. Hattie Allen was elected president, Mrs. B. S. Potter vice president, Mrs. Clara Waite recording secretary, Mrs. Carrie Brownell corresponding secretary, Mrs. Mary C. White, treasurer and Mr. Lon Kerrick auditor.

The home was moved to a rented property on Phoenix Ave. as the family out grew the first home.

In 1891 Mrs. B.S. Potter was elected president. It was thought best to secure a permanent location and so the property at 1024 E. Grove Street was purchased. In 1891 sixty persons were received in the home of which 30 were children. 150 had been in the home since the opening.

In 1895 it was voted to confine the work of the home to the relief and protection of orphans, destitute and dependent

children. The name was changed to the Girls Industrial Home, although young boys up to school age were sometimes admitted where the case was a needy one.

In 1900 the number of directors was changed to 12.

Mrs. Josephine Armstrong was elected matron in 1893 and she served in that office for ten years.

Mrs. H. C. DeMotte was made a member of the board in 1899, was vice president in 1900 and elected secretary in 1901 and served until her death in 1921, a term of twenty years.

The family kept growing and larger quarters were needed, so in 1903 the property on Grove St. was sold and larger grounds purchased at 403 S. State St. There were five acres in this property and it permitted more garden, pasture for the cows and play grounds for the boys and girls. The house on E. Grove St. was moved to this site and additions and improvements made.

In 1906 Mrs. Morgan was elected president and served thirty-three years in that office.

In 1915 the building was needing enlarging and many repairs. The fire marshall said it was a fire hazard and did not meet the requirements of the fire laws. So it was voted to build a new and larger house and a building committee was appointed consisting of Mrs. Jacob Bohrer, Mrs. Paul Beich, Mrs. H. C. DeMotte, Mrs. John T. Lillard, and Mrs. Frank Aldrich. Committies from Rotary and various Commercial Clubs helped with soliciting funds for the new building. "Trolley Day", "Pencil Day", teas, bridge parties were held and generous were the responses.

Mr. Arthur Pillsbury was chosen for the architect and the building was started.

It was a red letter day in the history of the home when the first board meeting, June 5, 1917, was held in the new building. Hard had been the work and efforts to make this dream come true but it was with joy the funds were sufficient to pay all bills and $2,000.00 was left over.

In the new home Miss Mattie Marble equipped the hospital room and gave generously all through the years.

With the $2,000.00 it was voted to buy Liberty Bonds and start an endowment fund to be used to keep children who needed the care of the home but were unable to meet all the financial obligation.

For some time the board had felt that the children in the home should be confined to girls and a second home for boys should be started. The president urged upon the board the necessity of making a move towards starting a home for boys not only that more boys might have the benefit of a home but that our home might be relieved from its crowded condition and more girls could be admitted. The family had reached 70. Interested ladies met with the board and the need of a boys home was stated and the work of a home explained. This led to the establishment of Victory Hall for boys and the boys from the Girls Industrial Home were among the first in Victory Hall.

With such a large family it was thought advisable, if possible, to have an isolation hospital in case quarantine sickness should visit the home and a cottage on Taylor Street across the street from the present building was purchased and converted into a hospital to be used if necessary. It was soon

called upon to care for some patients with scarlet fever.

It was also used later for housing some of the older girls. The board offered it to the city for a isolation hospital when necessary but the offer was declined and later as the family became smaller it was sold.

At the death of Miss Mattie M. Marble, the first secretary, the house received a generous endowment without conditions and in her memory a swimming pool was added for the enjoyment of the girls and was called the Mattie M. Marble pool.

The Rotary Club have for over twenty-five years entertained the entire family and board at Christmas time with a turkey dinner, beautiful tree and generous and lovely gifts for each girl. In June the board and family entertain the Rotarians at the home. Through all these years Rotary members have always been ready to advise and help when called upon.

The birthday of each girl is recognized and during the year the girls entertain school friends.

They attend the city schools, are members of Girl Scout and Brownie Troops and belong to the 4H Club.

In the summer they are priviledged to attend these camps through the kindness of the Rotarians.

They attend church and Sunday school and are members of the junior choirs.

Each child has some duty to perform in the house and is taught to do it well. These duties are changed regularly thus giving the girls more rounded experience in home work.

There are two classes in the home. Boarders, and those sent there by the county or state welfare agencies.

The home is licensed by the State Board of Welfare for thirty girls and it cannot exceed that number.

In order to show the board's appreciation and to honor Mrs. Morgan for her years of faithfulness and interest in the work, the board had the name of the Girls Industrial Home changed to the Lucy Orme Morgan Home in September 1929. In January 1939 when Mrs. Morgan declined re-election for president after 33 years of service, she was made president emeritus for life.

Each year, for some time, the home has been one of the beneficiaries of the Brevoort Will Fund which is administered by the mayors of Bloomington and Normal and the president of the Peoples Bank.

Thus from a small but well founded beginning the dream of those enthusiastic and far sighted people has developed into a home that has helped many, and is a credit to both the city and state.

LIST OF PRESIDENTS

1889 - Mrs. Ellen M. Light

1890 - Mrs. Hattie Allen

1891 - Mrs. B. S. Potter

1892 - Mrs. Anna C. Read

1893 - Mrs. Sue A. Sanders

1896 - Mrs. Mattie Newton

1897 - Mrs. Joseph Means

1901 - Mrs. J. U. Garver - Mrs. H. C. DeMotte Secretary

1902 - Mrs. Joseph Means

1906 - Mrs. E. R. Morgan - Mrs. Morgan President Emeritus

1939 - Mrs. John A. Brokaw

1944 - Mrs. W. C. Radliff

1946 - Mrs. Henry Capen

1947 - Mrs. Glen H. Campbell

1949 - Mrs. Lafayette Funk

CLARA DEMOTTE MUNCE

I was born in the large fourteen room house which my maternal grandfather, David Kern, had built in 1866 at 902 N. Main Street. This home with its 10 foot ceilings, handsome balanced staircase and scientific Ratan system of heating is still my home and is housing the fifth generation of our family.

My father was Harvey C. DeMotte who for forty years was identified with Illinois Wesleyan as mathematics teacher, vice-president , and founder of its music school. My mother, Sarah Jeannette Kern DeMotte , had been the first woman teacher in the old academy at I.W.U., and was throughout her lifetime active in the social, church, and club life of Bloomington. There were many interesting people entertained in our home as I grew up - Major Powell whom my father accompanied as typographer on his second trip down the Colorado river, John B. DeMotte, the noted educator and lecturer, Bishop J. C. Hartzell of the Methodist church were among these.

My first years of schooling were in Quincy, Illinois where we lived during the years my father was president of Chaddock College.

Some of my pleasantest childhood memories are those of the years my father was Superintendent of the Illinois State Soldiers and Sailors Home at Normal, Illinois. An only child, I enjoyed the companionship fo the children and insisted on wearing the school uniform when they

went as a body outside the Home. I attended the Home school and after graduating from it I attended University High where I was fortunate to have such persons as O.L. Manchester, Joseph Bohrer , Miss Fannie Fell and David Felmley as my teachers.

After three years at U. High I was admitted to Illinois Wesleyan University where I became a member of Epsilon Chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma. I was also a member of the first Illinois Wesleyan University girls basketball team. It played girls' teams from Decatur, Springfield, and the University of Illinois.

During these years I was an active member of the Amateur Musical Club and with other young ladies in 1899 organized the Clio Club, a literary club which is still flourishing.

I graduated from I.W. U. in 1897 and a few years later accepted a position which had been offered me as Latin and girls physical education teacher in Centralia High School.

In 1906 I married Charles Carroll Munce whom I had met at college and moved to a large farm in Logan County. Three children were born while living there but after my husband's death in 1916 I again returned to live in my mother's home in Bloomington.

During World War I besides knitting and making bandages for the boys in service I was co-chairman of

of a large white elephant sale for the Red Cross.

While my children were growing up I worked in P.T.A., serving as President of the Franklin P.T.A. and vice-president of the Bloomington High School group. I also often substituted in the Bloomington schools. I was a member of the Bloomington School Board and served as its treasurer.

I was elected treasurer of the Woman's Guild at I.W.U.. This organization at that time managed two girls dormitories- Kemp Hall and Kemp Lodge later to be called DeMotte Lodge. I continued in this office until the management was taken over by the school. I then became Director of the I.W.U. dormitories of which there were seven when I resigned in the fall of 1949.

After my Mother's death in 1921 I was elected to fill her place on the Board of the Girls Industrial Home later to be known as the Lucy Orme Morgan Home. At that time I also took over her office as Secretary-Treasurer - a position I still hold today.

For many years I have been active in the Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter of D.A.R. holding for two years the office of Regent as had my mother before me. I started the scholarship fund in this chapter and have also served on the state scholarship committee.

I am a member of the Grace Wesley Methodist Church having been a member before it merged with the First Methodist Church of the Grace church which my father and grandfather had helped organize .

HISTORY OF THE SALVATION ARMY

by

MRS. ONA HILSABECK

The History of the Salvation Army

The most impressive fact about the history of The Salvation Army is the short span of time it embraces. The organization has developed rapidly into a moral force of world-wide influence, flourishing in ninety-seven countries and colonies and in every town and city in the United States. Yet is was only eighty years ago that its humble foundations were laid in the East End of London, and only sixty-six years ago that its flag was first planted in America.

At First Mission; Later an Army

It began in 1865 with William Booth stepping out of his pulpit to preach in the churchless slums of East London. When his converts were refused membership in the established churches he held services for them in a small headquarters building in Whitechapel Road, London, under the name of The Christian Mission. It was not till 1878 that the military form of government was adopted and the name changed to The Salvation Army; and it was then that the Founder, William Booth, assumed the title of General. General Booth had been ordained as a minister in the Methodist Church in 1852, but, with his wife, Catherine Mumford Booth, had soon conceived the purpose of carrying the message of Christianity to those who would not voluntarily seek it.

Although the General at first planned his work exclusively for the masses in the congested sections of London, his imagination was soon stirred by the thought of similar service elsewhere, and the first country to which the movement spread outside of the British Isles was the United States.

Today the Salvation Army operates in 101 different countries and colonies. William Booth saw the necessity of expressing Christianity in a social welfare program among the poor and from this has grown the wide-spread activities of the present day Salvation Army.

The government of the Salvation Army is military in character, its ministers, both men and women who hold equal rank and equal opportunity, ordained and holding military rank, and with its lay members being called soldiers. Its officers are assigned to positions and are movable on short notice at the discretion of headquarters.

Six Generals have lead the Salvation Army, William Booth being succeeded by his son, Bramwell, who was followed by Edward Higgins. Higgins was followed by Evangeline Booth, and she was followed by George Carpenter and the present general is Albert Orsborn. The general is elected by the territorial leaders from among themselves.

The activities of the Army include such diversified things as day schools, general hospitals, maternity hospitals, mens hotels, working girls Evangeline hotels, leper colonies, clinics, dispensaries, childrens homes, and many other institutions besides the regular church programs.

The History of the Salvation Army in Bloomington

Locally the Salvation Army started in Bloomington in November 1886 when William Craig rented a store building on East Front Street. No fancy church building this, for tile and lumber made up the pews. The first street service was conducted November 26th at the northwest corner of the courthouse square where today a plaque embedded in the courthouse lawn commemmerates this event.

The Salvation Army was not known nor accepted with enthusiasm or sympathy. Severe persecution followed. They were arrested time and time again as offenders of the law and order. They were put in jail and fined, yet they marched on. Mobs disturbed the meetings and pelted the officers and soldiers with eggs and refuse, but that which is planted of God cannot be plucked out. So through perseverence and faith the Salvation Army marched on. Today the work locally is widely accepted and fills a vital need in the community.

Over sixty officers have been in command of the local corp and over forty young people have left Bloomington for the Booth Officers Training College where they receive Theological and Salvation Army training and are entered to service as officers in different parts of the country.

Beside religious services, there is carried on an extensive character building program for young people, including band training, hobby classes, a young peoples Bible Club, as well as a well organized Sunday School, a Ladies Aid that is open to all women regardless of creed or color. Indoor and street religious services are conducted regularly.

IN the social service field there is both a transient and family welfare department. Transients are housed and fed. Families are taken care of on a temporary basis in cooperation of the Council of Social Agencies. The work is partially supported by the Community Chest. The 65th anniversary of the local corp will be in 1951.

THE STORY OF VICTORY HALL

by

MRS. ARTHUR R. WILLIAMS

THE STORY OF VICTORY HALL

The Story of Victory Hall (and it is a story) should be written in two parts-first, the factual, statistical information, and second, the story of the spirit of Victory Hall. It would be unfinished if one part were told without the other and neither could be recorded had it not been for the interest, loyalty, and devotion of the people of the community-this community of McLean County which believes "It is better to build boys than to mend men."

So for the facts! Victory Hall, located at 904 West Hovey Avenue, Normal, is a home for dependent boys of school age. It was founded in 1919 and, in the thirty-one years since, nearly five-hundred boys have been residents; some staying awhile, some going, with thirty-five living in the Hall at the present time. One boy stayed for fifteen years, but the average residence has been two years and eight months. Of the five-hundred, one hundred eighty-seven have returned to the homes of parents or relatives. Thirty have gone into foster homes, fifty have been released to courts and other agencies, twelve have gone into the U. S. Service, ninty-six have become self-sustaining, one died, and four have been adopted. During World War II, eighty-six served their country in various branches of the service and one of these died in action. During the

first year, fifty-eight were cared for, but the Illinois Department of Public Welfare, which licenses Victory Hall, now permits but thirty-five because of dormitory space. The state also makes careful periodic fire, food, and sanitary inspections and is insistent on high standards regarding the physical, moral, and mental welfare of the boys.

The boys are divided into three groups. The youngest, six to nine; the second, ten to fourteen, and the high school group. A housemother is in charge of each of the younger groups and the Superintendent is counselor to the high school boys. Through the years, the public schools of Normal-Bernadine Orme Smith, Normal Central, and Normal Community High, have been the centers of education. The boys have participated in all school activities and have been especially outstanding in football, basketball and track.

Though they may attend the church or Sunday School of their choice or affiliation, for the most part they have all gone together to the University Christian Church and Sunday School of Normal.

Each boy assists in the work of the house and grounds; kitchen, dining room, dormitory, and grounds detail being arranged by the Superintendent and supervised by the housemothers, cook, and students. They also assist in the garden and the older boys have part-time outside employment-in this way earning spending

money. A system of banking is arranged by the Superintendent so that records of all earnings are carefully kept.

Abundant recreation is provided; a well equipped gymnasium where basket and volley ball are favored games, a crafts room where a splendid craft program is carried on; belts, jewelry, shell work, and other decorative work is being done-a shop, and a study where reading or quiet games may be enjoyed. A playground, with all the apparatus loved by boys, has been made possible through generous annual contributions by a daughter of Mrs. Oscar Mandel, a charter member of the Board.

The staff through the years has grown. In 1950, it consists of the Superintendent and his wife (who does much with the craft work) two housemothers, a cook, a maintenance man, a laundress, a part-time seamstress, and two part-time men students from Illinois State Normal University who live at the Hall.

The physical plant has grown also. In addition to the original home, it now includes the Superintendent's residence, the gymnasium, a garage, and a large garden, playground, and yard. This is financed in various ways-by the Community Chest, by personal bequests, by McLean and other counties who have boys in the Hall, and by a few private cases accepted through arrangements with relatives.

So much for the facts! None of these could be re-

corded had it not been for the pioneer spirit of the founders! So to go back! It was January 1919! Twenty-three little boys needed a home! They were not delinquent, not "bad" boys-just dependents; boys, who for one reason or another, not of their own making, had no one connected with them able or willing to make a home for them. They were temporarily living at the Girls' Industrial Home because there was no place else for them to stay.

Mrs. E. R. Morgan, President of the Girls' Industrial Home (later named Lucy Orme Morgan Home in her honor) on the advice of Judge James Riley called three friends,-Mrs. Charles Burr, Miss Bertha Cowles and Mrs. Hazle B. Ewing asking if they were willing to undertake the organization of a home for dependent boys similar to the one for girls. They agreed, and the first formal meeting was held on January 19, 1919.

The great problem was money. There must be shelter, food, clothing, equipment, a superintendent and a staff.

When it was discovered that the boys were not all from McLean County but came, also, from Ford, Woodford, Fayette and DeWitt Counties, the Home Bureau units of these, as well as McLean County were organized for a fund raising drive.

After securing chairmen to represent each of these units, a luncheon meeting at the Bloomington Country Club was arranged, and the committee explained to those attend-

ing the needs of these little fellows and asked their help in meeting them.

The response was heartening! The drive for funds was successful and after tireless searching for a proper home, a place was found-a wonderful large brick house at 904 Hovey Avenue in Normal. It was a suitable location near good schools and churches where these small boys could have a home like other children and grow up to become real, self-respecting citizens. The next step was a name! Many were suggested. Since this need had come up just at the end of the first World War, Mrs. Fred Capen was inspired to suggest the name "Victory Hall",-both in commemoration of the end of the War and with the earnest hope that in the case of each boy who came to us there would be a "victory" in helping him to become a valuable citizen in whatever community he made his permanent home.

The first equipment was purchased from the "Illinois Wesleyan Barracks"-material which had been used during the war. Dishes, kitchen equipment, and many other things were bought at a reasonable price. Contributions for the home and for the boys came from many sources; people everywhere were glad and willing to help make a home for these little boys. County people brought in food and many workers served busily during that hot summer getting the home ready. They sewed, making things to be used in the house, and clothes for the boys.

In the first years it was difficult to provide capable and efficient workers for Victory Hall. The Board members themselves often had to go out and assist. The work was divided among many groups, each being responsible for certain duties. There was a kindergarten group who taught the youngest children every morning; an educational group who visited the schools regularly; a health and sanitation group who looked after the children who were ill and the recreational group which provided suitable recreation such as picnics, birthday treats and Christmas festivities. There was the subsistence group, and it is told that the chairman shopped for good meat on Saturday night when it could be had for less money! These were challenging years for this Board of Directors:

Mrs. Ralph Demange
Miss Florence Evans
Miss Bertha Cowles
Mrs. O. H. Manchester
Mrs. Hazle Buck Ewing
Mrs. Lyle Straight
Mrs. Charles Burr
Mrs. Lloyd
Mrs. Oscar Mandel
Mrs. Sybil Chase
Mrs. Kelley Johnson
Mrs. Amy DeMange
Mrs. Manfred J. Holmes
Mrs. Frank Capen
Mrs. Bert Lain
Mrs. Walter Alexander
Mrs. Fred Capen

But the hard work had its reward for after three years, the president wrote in her annual report:

> "Now that our physical equipment is for the first time adequate to our needs, we hope earnestly that our Superintendent may reap the reward of her patience and long suffering in a building where order and cleanliness are now a matter of simple routine rather than a daily discouraging struggle. With our material problems largely solved we are now freer to turn our interest and effort even more earnestly toward the developing the indi-

vidual talents and abilities of each of our boys. Does it not seem possible that somewhere in our community that there are those who would eagerly help and encourage every special interest in mechanics or the arts? As we look forward to the future our hope is that Victory Hall may be worthy of more and more of the loyal interest and support of the McLean County residents to the end that each boy who comes to it may find every opportunity for making himself a worthy citizen of our community and of the world, and thus prove that Victory Hall does mean "Victory" over seemingly adverse circumstances."

Again a passing of years; each bringing some problems, some improvements, some replacements so that finally in 1950 an answer to the president's report of 1922 can be made thus: It is significant to note that since the date of the above report, the physical plant and activities have been greatly extended and residents of the community have not only continued but increased their constructive interest. These good citizens are too numerous to mention but never a day has passed for years that some sign of this interest has not been manifested.

In the last year women students from Illinois State Normal University have increased interesting activities for the boys by organizing voluntary classes in art, drama, crafts and music.

The Victory Coterie, a group of women in the neighborhood of the Hall, have been "friends in need" always, and have done a tremendous amount of sewing, particularly, although they are ready to assist at all

times where needed.

The Young Men's Club has been indefatigable in it's helpful interest. Wonderful annual Christmas dinner parties with a program and the "gift of his choice" for each boy, trips to Chicago to see big league baseball games, to the Railroad Fair, to the circus, camping opportunities and contributions to shop equipment have been among their contributions.

Tickets have been provided annually for the older boys to see the Passion Play and frequent movie parties are made possible by the managers of the theatres.

One of the most heart-warming results is the attitude of the boys towards the home. The incident is told of the little boy who was being adopted. When the day came for him to leave, he said, "I don't want to leave Mr._____. I love him. I like it here." That has been the feeling among the boys to a great extent-that they like it here. Just at Christmastime this year (1949), a small boy expressing his delight because he was going home for Christmas, paused in his excitement and said, "But I can come back, can't I?"

Many of the boys that have left have come back periodically as boys come back home. Some of these that are now in business and the professions not only write "Home" but send money and gifts back to the Hall for those now living there. One of these has recently purchased his home in this"neighborhood."

The influence of the Hall in education, development of personal responsibilities and fostering of incentives for the future, is clearly reflected in the subsequent history of the boys after leaving the Home and is shown by their personal successes in becoming good and respected citizens.

And so-(in the words of one of the original committee):

> "When we look back at our early struggles and trials, it now seems as if a happy dream has come true. For here the boys have their own playroom, an outdoor athletic field and equipment, a competent staff of home workers and all the good things which an active group of boys need including plenty of good food and warm clothing. Truly it has been a Victory."

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HOME

by

Mrs. Harold E. Walsh
as taken from the records
of Mrs. George Monroe

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By

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It is a beautiful summer morning, late in June of 1950. The hour is seven. And, surely, to the ten little boys and ten little girls who live at 1203 MacArthur Avenue in Bloomington, Illinois, 'God's in His Heaven and all's well with the world'. For this is the day!

A large yellow City bus, chartered for the occasion, had drawn up a few minutes earlier and parked on the east side of the Booker T. Washington Home, a substantial red brick building, situated on a well-shaded corner lot with stepping stones leading over the lawn to a charmingly simple wrought-iron entrance, flanked by two shapely silver spruce and just enough other shrubbery to erase any suggestion of stark, institutional bareness.

The children from wide-eyed six year old John to seventeen year old Bertha, shiningly clean and nicely dressed for this annual holiday outing, were now gathered around the bus and Mr. Moody, the genial bus driver. They had all been awake since before dawn when the two airy dormitories, the girls' on the east side of the second floor and the boys' in the separated west wing of the same floor, came suddenly to life. All must wash and dress with special care this morning, the older children helping the younger. Beds must be made, the dormitories left in order. Breakfast must be served, eaten and cleared

away. But it was all so much fun this morning because they were getting ready to go to Brookfield Zoo.

Never had the Home's cheerful kitchen with its immaculate white enamelled walls and starched muslin curtains faced with red checked gingham buzzed with so much good cheer at five o'clock in the morning. Never before had the rosy enamelled walls of the always bright dining room on that northeast corner of the first floor cast such a glow over everyone and everything. Everyone felt so gay that each one had finished his little duties in no time. And, for a while it seemed that seven o'clock would never come!

But finally, the huge hamper of luscious ham sandwiches, the fruit and chocolate cakes and all the delicious food one thinks of for a picnic, were stowed away in the back end of the bus. And upon the arrival of the five board members who had volunteered to mother this brood for the day, they, the children and the Home mother and father Calimese were immediately packed into the bus.

The day at the Zoo was all that any family day of the sort might have been, except that, by and large, the children were much better behaved than most. They were given as much freedom as possible, our only concern, their safety. Each was given spending money which, generally speaking, they handled with unexpected, good sense. Each of the five board member 'mothers' soon found that three or four of the children had gravitated to them and attached themselves, so there was no worry where the children were. They just naturally wanted to be near, if not actually touching, their chosen 'mother'. They were making the most of that feeling of really belonging, even in such exciting surroundings as Brookfield Zoo.

Twelve happy hours later the children were safely returned. It had been a perfect holiday---no accidents; no one got sick. However, the inviting playground at the rear of the Home held no appeal to the peppiest that evening. They did not show too much interest in their light supper. But each girl and boy was happy to snuggle down early in his very own clean and comfortable single bed; and to whisper and chuckle drowsily over the happenings of the day, just a little while, with his sleepy dormitory mates.

Booker T. Washington Home never forgets birthdays. Each child receives a birthday gift, and there is a birthday cake and candles supplied by various organized groups for a monthly birthday table. And Christmas, too, is a gala time for our Home children with the board seeing that each child receives a wanted gift, with Mr. and Mrs. Calimese, the Home superintendent and matron, planning decorations and helping the children trim a large and festive Christmas tree, with planned programs and carol singing. Many organizations remember our children at Christmas. The Young Men's Club has given a lovely Christmas Eve party annually for a goodly number of

years, bringing beautiful gifts and treats for each child. The local Rotary Club always furnishes a lavish Christmas dinner, replete with turkey and all the holiday trimmings.

So, while every day is not Christmas, Easter, some one's birthday or a trip to the Zoo, our children do have a good life. They experience the joy of a number of special events during the year and they enjoy many of the usual school activities as does any school boy or girl. They have their dull days; they have their ups and downs. But in so far as is possible with the able management of Mr. and Mrs. Calimese, assisted from time to time by interested friends, a faithful group of board members and our presidentMrs. George Monroe, we aim to give these children a somewhat normal home life.

Our success can only be measured by the attitudes reflected in the way the older children look out for the younger. There was an amusing example of this thing during our picnic at Brookfield Zoo. One of the board members had been plying little John, our six year old, with more and more food. Finally Charles, aged twelve, quietly demurred, "He's already eaten four and he's kinda small. Sometimes, he makes himself sick if you don't stop him".

So, now, you have a picture of Booker T. Washington Home--- its home life and its children as we see them in the year of 1950. The Home is a light, clean, modernly equipped institution, incorporated and operated under state supervision. It is operated economically and well. The buildings and seven lots that presently comprise our system are quite adequate to take care of our present needs. We have an ample fenced in playground with a modest amount of equipment. The extra lots are utilized for gardens which are planted and worked by our superintendent and some of the older boys during the summer months. These gardens go a long way toward keeping the Home table during the summer, besides supplying potatoes for the whole winter, carrots, onions and other root vegetables; besides quantities of tomatoes that are canned and jellies, sauces and the like that are prepared and preserved for winter by the matron and older girls in the Home kitchen.

Booker T. Washington Home is now a member of the McLean County Community Chest. This organization supplements the meager income we now have from the counties who have placed their dependent children with us, and from some small endowments, received from friends of the Home.

Our children are clean, well-fed and well-clothed. There is a periodic health check of their bodies and teeth. They are being reared in a Christian environment with an effort to provide them with some social background and to minister to their spiritual needs as well as the usual attention to their physical needs. Since most of these children have come from pitifully underprivileged homes, they are, doubtless, much better off than they could ever have been with their natural mothers and fathers.

We have, at this time, two children who are a peculiar example of the social adjustment angles which our Home must occasionally meet and untangle.

About a year and a half ago we were asked to take two children, one seven and one ten, from the southern part of the state. Because of segregation of schools in that county, these children had never been to school. Their mother was white, the fathers colored. Worthless, the parents had both abandoned the children at birth. They had always lived with their white maternal grandmother who had taught the children they were white and had very bitterly opposed any attempt of the authorities to send them to colored schools.

Finally, under duress, the grandmother consented to committing the children to our Home, if we would receive them, as the only alternative to attending the colored school in their own community.

Our first reaction was that this was a 'hot potato' much too hot to handle. But the more we thought of it, the more we felt it was a challenge.

The upshot of the whole affair was that we voted to have the case investigated and, if feasible, have the children brought to our Home. So after a period of preparation to lighten the shock to the children in so rudely transplanting them, those two children became a part of our family. And to the everlasting credit of the workers, Mr. and Mrs. Calimese and the understanding teachers who have assisted in the orientation and the adjustment of these two, the children have appeared to adjust without any irreparable personality scars; and are two handsome, happy youngsters, fast advancing toward the school age group where they belong.

Booker T. Washington Home has a real heart and a truly great mission in our community. To understand the heart and soul of our home, however, one must go back to its humble beginnings---go back over thirty years to the stanch and earnest women who saw a need, recognized their responsibility and pioneered, at first, against almost hopeless odds.

During and immediately following World War I, a great need arose for the care and housing of dependent American Negro children in this community. Mrs. Fred Wyche and Mrs. Florence Bohrer, two women who were connected with the Home Department of the Red Cross unit, began to work out the problem.

Early in 1918, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Barker, assisted by Mrs. Wyche, undertook the care of six little orphaned colored children. A small five room house was rented at 510 West Jackson and with the help of the Red Cross and friends, the cottage was sketchily furnished.

The original six was augmented, almost immediately, by

two more children, and soon more and more little bedraggled souls arrived until the number had swelled to about twenty little girls and boys. To be sure the Barkers, Mrs. Wyche and Mrs. Bohrer, even with the Red Cross assisting, were not able to discharge such a responsibility without help from interested friends who responded with food, furniture, clothes and money.

At this time Mrs. S. P. Irwin was President of the Missionary Union, an organization composed of four Christian churches of Bloomington and Normal. Mrs. Irwin became intensely interested in this project and was the motivating spirit in helping support, both materially and spiritually, this cause which she recognized as an opportunity for applied Christianity. She provided the occasion for Mrs. Barker to speak before the United Missionary Society and to present their dire need for help.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Irwin had helped to house the growing family at a new location which is the site of our Booker T. Washington Home. Later, the six room house was contracted for, to be bought and paid for by monthly payments. This was the beginning of a small degree of permanency and security in establishing a home for dependent colored children.

When Mrs. Irwin retired from the presidency of the Missionary union, Mrs. George Monroe was elevated to that office. With her new office Mrs. Monroe learned that she had inherited the problems of the Colored Children's Home which she had, heretofore, thought of as Mrs. Irwin's personal responsibility. At her first executive meeting Mrs. Monroe learned that the 'Home' was to be the major project of the year.

Momentarily stunned, but never easily daunted, Mrs. Monroe accepted her responsibility without protest; and, after days of prayer and meditation, came to a decision. The cause had outgrown a small group and, hence, should become a community project. So she called her executive council and asked for the privilege of organizing this work on a different basis. Her request was granted.

On September 15, 1920, the first meeting of a group of women representing the various churches of the community was called, with a plan of forming a permanent board of fifteen women.

Mrs. S. P. Irwin served as temporary chairman; Mrs. W. W. Wallis as temporary secretary. Permanent officers were elected as follows:

Mrs. George Monroe------ President
Mrs. George B. Read----- Vice President
Mrs. W. W. Wallis------- Treasurer
Mrs. Charles O'Malley--- Secretary

The directors chosen were:

Mrs. S. P. Irwin
Mrs. Harvey Bunnell
Mrs. Langdon Sanders
Mrs. Carrie Hazlett
Mrs. W. E. Reeves
Mrs. A. Schwarzman
Mrs. Julius Klemm
Mrs. Mercer Davis
Mrs. Frank R. Bean
Mrs. W. H. Johnson
Miss Gertrude Hawk

The three trustees elected were:

Mr. George Monroe
Mr. U. S. Davis
Mr. Davis Ewing

In October 1920 a state charter was applied for. And on December 22, 1920, this private charitable enterprise, fostered by various churches and missionary societies of Bloomington and Normal, was duly incorporated as the McLean County Home for Colored Children.

At the time the charter was granted, the family of twenty to twenty-five children and two adults had been housed for over a year in a six room frame house with two stoves, one on the first floor, the other in the basement. There was only gas lighting, no plumbing nor running water. This accommodation had been a rental proposition, at first; but, later in the year, was purchased with a fifty foot frontage for $1000, payable in monthly payments.

Within a period of two years, under the tireless leadership of Mrs. Monroe and her able board of earnest, hard-working women, the incumbrance on this property had been removed and another small house and lot adjoining was contracted for on the same basis of meeting payments. This second property was also bought for $1000.

In the meantime improvements were made on the first house. It was equipped with furnace, plumbing and electricity. Both houses were painted and re-roofed. The original house was used as a dormitory for the girls; the second house for the boys, with kitchen and dining room in the basement of the original house. This room, also, had to serve as a laundry.

Three more lots were contracted for, making a three hundred footage for gardens. And in 1923 this involved a paving assessment of $2000. These unexpected outlays were, forever, occurring and would often have seemed insurmountable to one less firm, less convinced of the rightness of the cause she served.

But in 1922 the United Welfare Foundation, which later grew into our Community Chest, had come into existence. In this organization the Home joined with eight other agencies to make one concerted drive for their support.

In that early day our board had the vision to realize that there would be a future need for much more adequate housing. So they asked and were granted the privilege of submitting a budget for $2000 above overhead expenses, to be placed in a building fund, anticipating a future building program. This was one of the master strokes of that early board, an action

that helped to realize the dream of a modern institution at a much earlier date than, otherwise, might have been possible.

Every year presented its problems. In retrospect the remodelling of a kitchen, the installing of toilet facilities--all to meet state requirements---unforeseen illnesses with much unexpected expense may not sound like such weighty problems. But to Mrs. Monroe and the capable women who gave of their time and substance to surmount these difficulties, who struggled with closely shaved budgets to make ends meet and, at the same time, kept and nurtured the dream and onward look toward bigger and better things---these knotty questions were very real.

But the years went by and they did progress. January 1927, Mr. and Mrs. Napoleon Calimese, our present superintendent and matron, were appointed to take charge of the Home. They were engaged for a combined salary of $100.00 per month, plus their board and living quarters. By this time the McLean County Home for Colored Children was a going institution on a modest scale, indeed. But when compared with the crowded little cottage the writer (then a student at Illinois Wesleyan) visited frequently in 1921, to tell stories to the most receptive group of bright eyed listeners upon whom it was ever her privilege to try out her Story Telling course, the two reconditioned cottages were almost luxurious.

Children came and went; some stayed on for many years. Sometimes, children were returned to their parents when home ties in broken homes were mended. But we like to feel that, even on these, some imprint of clean and orderly living may have been made upon their young lives. Because we were chartered and under state supervision, we took dependent children from other counties when space was available. The respective counties, of course, paid for the child's keep: and it was the policy of the board, through the years, to place the calls from our own county first.

Finally, the building fund had reached the substantial sum of $16,354.58 with an additional $370.00 that had been specified for furnishing.

So, after much deliberation, a decision to build was reached and a building committee, consisting of Mrs. Elmer Folsom, Mrs. E. F. Kleinau, Mrs. W. H. Cumming, Miss Maude Beebe and Mrs. George Monroe was appointed.

In September 1935 the contract for a modern red brick fireproof building was let to the John Felmley Company with Hooten, Shaeffer Architects, at a cost of $18,734.40. Work progressed nicely through November. Then a very cold winter delayed all furthur progress till the following March. The family finally moved into the new Home in late August of 1936.

A dream had materialized. But only Mrs. Monroe, the president, and her faithful building committee realized the

private 'baptism', as it were, of 'blood, sweat and tears' that these good women experienced during all these months before and after the contract was let; particularly, during one of the hottest summers on record when the demands upon the committee were most heavy.

Now for fourteen years the Home, these pioneering women scarcily dared dream of, has been occupied. Each year has brought some new improvement, inside or out. For it has been the ever-growing desire of Mrs. Monroe and each succeeding board to make the Home a better one for the children who live there, to make it, in spirit and kind, as nearly like a good Christian family home as is possible.

In 1942, at the suggestion of Mrs. Stuart Wyatt, a board member at that time, the name of the Home was changed from McLean County Home for Colored Children to Booker T. Washington Home. The very name change suggests and reflects the spirit that has guided the growth of this organization; not merely a plan to house and feed the dependent, but one to give them such moral and spiritual training that they may be good citizens, to make it possible for these children to go forth equipped to be a credit to their race.

It must be most gratifying to the women who have served so ably on this board, the men who have functioned as trustees, to see the physical evidence of growth. But to those who have given long years of service, particularly, Mrs. George Monroe, who has served as president of the Home board for thirty consecutive years, and Mrs. Charles O'Malley, the first secretary of the board who, like-wise, served on the board for thirty years----you may be sure that these two veterans are more deeply concerned with the records of the young people who have gone out from the Home. For the fruits of their labor is evidenced in the good citizens that our Home has produced.

Some of these young people return on occasion. They call upon these women and tell them how much their early training has meant to them. Others write their expression of grateful appreciation, and tell of the good life they are living. So these women take their reqard in just pride in the boy who was graduated from college, equipped to coach athletics and prepared for professional advancement; in this same young man's brother who is head porter on a Chicago-San Francisco streamliner run; in the girl who is a kindergarten teacher in a nearby city; in the girl who practises nursing in New York; in the girl who became a trained nurse and joined an order as a Sister of Charity and is giving of herself and her profession in a St. Louis hospital. These and other examples like them make their 'labor of love' for Booker T. Washington Home a beautiful chapter from their busy worthwhile lives, a chapter to be cherished always.

THE JESSAMINE WITHERS HOME

by

MRS. CLARENCE H. BROUGHTON AND FRANCES ROWELL JOHNSON

THE JESSAMINE WITHERS HOME

Mrs. Sarah B. Withers left by will her home property located at 305 West Locust St. Bloomington, Illinois to be used as a home for aged women under the supervision of the Board of the Second Presbyterian Church of Bloomington. It was impossible to operate the home as intended by Mrs. Withers until funds for this purpose had been provided.

In 1900 Mrs. Martha D. Horr gave funds to build a cottage on the northeast corner of the Withers property, known as the Horr cottage. At the time of its dedication, Col. D. C. Smith of Normal presented $5000.00 to the home as a nucleus of an endowment. The Horr Cottage was operated in those early days as a boarding home for elderly ladies.

Later came a bequest of $500.00 toward the endowment by Mrs. Lavina Richardson of Bloomington. Mrs. Horr at her death bequeathed $1000.00 toward the endowment.

Under the will of the late Capt. S. Noble King, the home came into possession of what is known as the King farm on the Towanda road, two and one-half miles from Bloomington. This farm comprises 240 acres and is known as one of the finest in McLean County. Under the terms of the will, Mrs. King retained a life interest in this farm. This she relinquished, making the returns from this property immediately available for maintenance of the home.

On receipt of this splendid endowment the trustees were in a position to remodel the old Withers Homestead. The house was largely rebuilt inside at an expense of $5000.00. The re-

sults were such that it would be difficult to find a more convenient and pleasant home than now exists.

Under the will of the late Mary V. Ropp, the sum of $10,000.00 was bequeathed to the home for the erection of a building to be known as the Mary V. Ropp Cottage.

Before it could be built, it was necessary to receive an endowment. Mrs. Margaret Kendall realized this necessity and in the summer of 1931 she made it possible for the cottage to be built and to be known as the William and Margaret Kendall endowment. This Cottage was formally dedicated May 9, 1932.

Then in May of 1914 a State Charter was obtained and the Home was dedicated as "The JESSAMINE WITHERS HOME". Other substantial bequests have come to the Home over a period of years, notably from the Brevoort Estate, Mrs. Martha Burr, Mrs. Carrie Haglett, Miss Kate Maxfield, Judge C. D. Myers, Luella Rankin and Frank Albert Walker.

According to the will of Mrs. Withers, the Home was to be governed by a Board of Lady Managers in conjunction with the Trustees. The Trustees were to be appointed from the Board of the Second Presbyterian Church. The Board of Ladies was to consist of one representative from each protestant Church of Bloomington and Normal and ten members at large.

In May of 1914 Mrs. S. Noble King took the initiative in calling together such a group of women and served as Chairman throughout the year of organization. These women drew up By-Laws for the operation of their Board and rules governing the admission of residents to the Home.

According to the By-Laws there shall be a meeting of the Board at 9:45 on the first Tuesday morning of each month, and an annual meeting on the first Tuesday of May at which time the election of Officers shall take place.

The following Committees consisting of three or more members each shall be appointed by the president for a term of one year:

Executive Committee
Application Committee
Visiting Committee
Purchasing Committee
Linen and Bedding Committee
Dining Room and Equipment Committee
House Committee
Grounds Committee
Finance Committee
Membership Committee
Employment Committee

Rules for admission to the Home say the applicant must be a native of McLean County or a resident thereof for at

least one year previous to application. She must be a lady of respectability, at least 70 years of age and in reasonably good health.

Each applicant to become a resident of the Withers Home shall be received only on a six months probationary period. After a probationary resident of six months, if the Board of Managers and the Board of Trustees and the applicant are mutually satisfied, then the applicant shall become a permanent resident of the Home.

When the organization was completed an election for the Board of Managers was held resulting in the following officers and members:

Mrs. S. Noble King, Honorary President
Mrs. Guy McCurdy, President
Mrs. Campbell Holton, First Vice President
Mrs. N. K. McCormick, Second Vice President
Miss Bernice Foster, Secretary
Mrs. F. C. Davison, Treasurer

Mrs. J. B. Adams
Mrs. Hester Bonnett
Mrs. E. P. Brand
Mrs. Alonzo Dolan
Mrs. W. P. Garretson
Miss Belle Goudy
Mrs. J. A. Goodwin
Mrs. W. S. Harwood
Mrs. Albert Hoffman
Mrs. H. T. Kummer
Miss Mattie Marble
Mrs. Edwin Pattison
Mrs. G. B. Read
Mrs. C. E. Richart
Mrs. A. Schwarzman
Mrs. Clyde Shope
Mrs. B. W. Steele
Mrs. Sidney Webster

Of that first board Mrs. Guy McCurdy and Mrs. J. A. Goodwin have continued to be members until now, when they have requested to be placed on the inactive list as honorary members of the Board.

Throughout the years this Board of women has regularly met on the designated day with a high average of attendance. They meet in the Board room at the home especially furnished for them. The pictures of the Founders of the Home hang on the walls of this room. The present board of Managers consists of:

Mrs. Harry Johnson, President
Mrs. E. P. McDaniel, First Vice President
Mrs. Wm. Tick, Second Vice President
Mrs. C. H. Broughton, Secretary
Mrs. J. B. Murphy, Treasurer
Mrs. Will T. Kraft, Cor. Secretary

Mrs. Howard Adams,
Mrs. O.H. Bloodgood
Mrs. C. E. Bock
Mrs. C. G. Branch
Mrs. M. D. Carothers
Mrs. T. B. Correll
Mrs. P. A. Johnson
Mrs. Julius Klemn
Mrs. Lowell Kraft
Mrs. W. L. Martin
Mrs. Rose Neubauer
Mrs. Henry Nierstheimer

Mrs. Mary Crandall
Mrs. C. Cruikshank
Mrs. Leslie Ernst
Mrs. A. J. Graves
Mrs. W. C. Guefferoy
Mrs. F. L. Irwin
Mrs. E. K. Rehker
Mrs. Albert Spiers
Mrs. Ferne Wakefield
Mrs. Lyle Quinn
Mrs. Fred Sorrenson

The first Trustees for the Home were:

B. S. Green
Chas. Brokaw
Louis W. Howard
Ingram C. Ryburn
Oscar Seibel
J. C. Coblentz
Chalmers H. Marquis
B. C. VanLeer
E. M. Evans
Guy C. Ela
John J. Miller

The present Trustees are:

Don M. Chism
James Warren Paxton
Ray A. Hufford
Dr. R. A. Chrisman
Frederick C. Woodworth
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Ben S. Hiltabrand, Jr.
Ramond P. Mecherle
Elias W. Rolley
Everett S. Kent
Geo. F. Dick III
Louis F. Oblander

Mrs. Chester Marquis is Business Manager

There are now 19 residents in the home. They are cared for by a staff of six people,

a matron,
assistant matron,
nurse
cook
laundress
janitor

all residing in the home.

The matron is Mrs. Mary Edwards of Bloomington.

HISTORY OF AMERICAN PASSION PLAY

by

CLARA L. KOOGLE

HISTORY OF AMERICAN PASSION PLAY FROM ITS FIRST BEGINNING.

by

Clara L. Koogle

In order to give this information it is necessary to know something concerning the man who is responsible for The American Passion Play and the high degree of attainment which it achieved.

Mr. Delmar D. Darrah was a graduate of the Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Illinois. Two years were spent in meeting the requirements for college entrance, and four years were given to the attainment of a college degree. During these six years the major portion of his time was devoted to the study of English, Public speaking and Dramatic Art. He later returned to Illinois Wesleyan as a teacher of the subjects in which he had specialized. As the field of teaching promised little financial return, he retired from the profession to enter business. He did however continue to do special coaching and entered the the lecture field, appearing at functions and public affairs in various parts of the country.

About this time the Scottish Rite Masonic Bodies were organized in the city of Bloomington, and Mr. Darrah was offered the opportunity to become dramatic instructor for these organizations - a position he held until his death. The Scottish Rite deals largely with historical and religious subjects, drawing much of its material from the Bible. This gave a splendid opportunity for the development of religious drama, and the work which was done by these organizations under his direction soon commenced to attract attention from various parts of the country, with the result that many interested in this subject came to Bloomington to observe the methods that were in practice.

In 1922 with the completion of the magnificent Scottish Rite Temple, Bloomington, with its splendid auditorium seating fifteen hundred and its commodious stage, the opportunity was offered for the realization of Mr. Darrah's most cherished dream - the production of Religious Drama.

The first play of religious character to be produced was called "The Star in the East," and was presented during the Christmas season in 1923. It was based upon the Nativity of Jesus of Nazareth. The play contained about twenty scenes - all the characters were taken by men. This was the first religious production to be staged.

This proved that religious drama, properly presented had an appeal to all people.

Having been successful with this experiment, Mr. Darrah then laid plans for the production of his first Passion Play. The name he gave it was, "The Life and Works of Jesus of Nazareth."

The most serious problem was that of financing. Mr. Darrah sent out a letter to interested people and personal friends, telling them of what he proposed to do, and asked them to buy at least five tickets at $1.50 each, and as many more as they felt disposed to purchase, these tickets to be resold to neighbors and friends. The response was most encouraging. Almost ten thousand dollars was raised making it possible to purchase scenery, costumes, stage properties and many other articles to start a production of this magnitude. There was enough money to secure the best possible musical talent, so that the play might be given its initial performance in a most satisfactory manner. Mrs. Darrah an outstanding musician, was a great help to her husband in arranging the music.

To Dr. B.J. Palmer, at the time owner and operator of Radio Station W.O.C. Davenport, Iowa, more than to any one man must go the credit of giving the Passion Play its start, it was through his kindly and commendatory broadcasts that the play was called to the attention of the American public and hundreds of people were influenced to come and witness the productions. He even organized groups that came by special trains on different days.

The Knights Templar of Illinois became interested in the Passion Play, buying entire houses and operating special trains from Chicago. After watching a parade of these Knights, in their full regalia, marching from the depot to the Temple singing "Onward Christian Soldiers" it made the entire cast feel a great responsibility.

In 1926 Mr. Darrah made a special trip to Europe to gather new ideas and material for the Passion Play. He witnessed

many outstanding productions, with a view to obtaining methods that might be used for the betterment of the Passion Play. He again visited Europe in 1930 to witness the Passion Play of Oberammergau.

Everyone expressed willingness to contribute what they could toward the play, carpenters in the organization made platforms, steps and stage properties.

To handle the Passion Play a crew of twenty-five men under the direction of Oscar Muhl handle about forty tons of scenery each performance.

The people who followed Christ were from the common walks of life so it is with the Passion Play cast, composed of about 250 local people, men, women and children. In the beginning all the cast gave freely of his or her talents without any compensation other than personal satisfaction of doing something worth while.

Mr. Darrah had the rare faculty of quick and correct judgment as to the ability of a man or woman to do certain things. In casting a play he studied a scene and then found someone fitted for the picture he had visualized. He took into consideration the fitness of the person and their ability to properly interpert and express themselves. Each person a separate unit acting and conducting himself as he probably would if the conditions were real.

One time a man dropped a hammer and he hollered for someone to come help him. Mr. Darrah stopped everything and went to find out who was talking as he had a part where he needed just such a voice.

Every costume used in the play is as nearly correct as careful study and research could possibly achieve. Coarse materials and woolens dyed in bright colors are used extensively as the people of that period revelled in gaudy colors. They were selected to be appropriate to the character represented.

Mr. Darrah's first objective was to find a man who could play the part of Jesus of Nazareth. He knew such a man, but whether or not he would be willing to undertake such a role was a matter that had to be cautiously presented. This man was Frederich A. Hitch, who had been a student under Mr. Darrah at the Wesleyan University. He was a man of immaculate habits- high character - and one against whom no criticism could be uttered in presenting the portrayal of Jesus of Nazareth. Mr. Hitch consented to take this part.

The cast marveled at the ability of Mr. Hitch to memorize so much script. He had been a Sunday School teacher for many years and his early training seemed to make it possible for him to recite the scriptures almost word perfect. Even during rehearsals he wanted the cast to keep quiet as he always seemed to be living the lines of his script. Although he received a great deal of praise for his wonderful interperation he never seemed to feel flattered but put even more into

his lines.

Mr. Hitch was well known in Bloomington being the son of Mr. and Mrs. Allison Hitch of the Woolen Mill store.

The character of the most hated of all time, Judas Isacriot, was taken by Henry Stanberry, a man of dramatic ability who worked with Mr. Darrah in Masonic degrees.

It would be quite impossible to mention the many outstanding characters in the Passion Play. There is one however, George W. Marton, who portrayed Malachi that has dome much in arranging the Jewish music and designed the musical instruments used in the wedding scene.

Mrs. Clara Koogle (it is I) protrayed the Mother of Jesus for twenty-six years. Twenty-five years of this time as Supervisor of women. Under the direction of Mr. Darrah I designed and supervised the making of the costumes for the women, having entire charge of the women's department. I also did a great deal of research for Mr. Darrah.

Mr. Hitch had his twelve disciples and as strange as it may seem, there were twelve women who worked in our lean years making costumes, curtains and doing various other jobs for the play. Many of these were to assist Mr. Schausten who had charge of the men's wardrobe.

This group would go to the Temple about nine o'clock of a morning certain days of the week and have a covered dish luncheon at noon and work in the afternoon. We were not paid for our work. I well remember Anna Yates' home made rolls, Maude Geigers' potato salad, Gussie Carlsons' cream cocoanut pie. Oh! the day Margaret Clarke upset the coffee-pot. From that day forth it was my job to make the coffee in my electric percolator I took from home. Mr. Darrah sort of made it a point to appear about this time, he said to check things over which included our dinner table.

Mr. Darrah established a children's department which was under the care of a kindergarten teacher where they played games and were entertained during the afternoon. Mr. Darrah would visit them during the afternoon and give them some sort of a treat. They remained in this room until time for their scenes then go down on the stage appear in scenes and right back to their room and remain there until the close of the play.

There were times when Mr. Darrah could really scold during rehearsals but we usually knew we had it coming and really tried harder to please him. I well remember one rehearsal that was held on my birthday. About nine o'clock Mr. Darrah said we would - knock off - for some light refreshments. I looked up and Mr. Darrah and Della Lathrop came into the room carrying a huge lighted birthday cake. Enough

for the entire cast, and placed it in front of me and when I cut the first piece it played Happy Birthday and of course there was ice cream. I surely was surprised and know all the cast that was there that night will never forget the occasion. He would sometimes ask for a rehearsal of certain scenes in the first part of the play or perhaps the last part that did not need all the women but when we did not go we missed our being together.

There was no jealous feeling amoung our first cast, everyone worked for a great purpose and each one was made to feel the importance of their part. We never had a Prompter during our plays but when someone gave a wrong line you were surely told about it by the person to follow. There was true friendship and a special something probably "Spiritual Love" that bound us very close together.

The purpose of this play is to bring to men and women the real meaning of Jesus Christ to the World. It also brings a better understanding of his teachings, and that He offered to the World, the only plan of life which can possibly lead to peace, happiness and prosperity and moral triumph, not only for individuals, but nations as well.

Thus a group of good people dropped their work of the day to go to the Scottish Rite Temple for rehearsals to learn to protray some particular Bible character. Under the direction of Mr. Darrah this was not a hardship but an education and a privilege to work in this production known throughout the entire world.

It was my good fortune to meet personally Anna Rutz, who played the Mother in the Passion Play of Oberammergau while she was touring this country. It was through the courtesty of the Pantagraph I was taken to Petersburg for a personal interview.

When a play was over and the audiences were leaving the auditorium they seem to be transported backward two thousand years and to dwell with their innermost thoughts.

AMERICAN PASSION PLAY

(An article taken from the
Sunday Bulletin of April 20, 1924)

Contributed by Mrs. Wylie R. Dimmett

AMERICAN PASSION PLAY

(An article taken from the
Sunday Bulletin of April 20, 1924)

Contributed by Mrs. Wylie R. Dimmett

Three great audiences of three thousand each have now seen the tremendous production of the Easter Pageant by the Consistory Players, and six thousand more will witness it today. These fifteen thousand awed and silent onlookers will never forget the deep and solemn impressions gained.

No description can do justice to this masterpiece, whose reverent beauty and heart-searching appeal passes any words. From the moment the Consistory temple was entered, and the hush of silence met those approaching, who were escorted to their places by costumed ushers, directed by Mr. J. W. Probasco, as chief of the ushers, there was an indelible feeling that the occasion was one of deep moment. The impressive prologue for the sessions began a half hour preceding the actual pageant. The stage was set in representation of the great church universal, irrespective of creed. The shining lights which lit it were to represent the light of the world, Jesus Christ. Before the front of the stage, a double ascending staircase had been arranged, and from alternating aisles came an impressive allegorical procession of sixty, representing men and women from past days to the present; from highest walks of life to the humblest. Parts in this program were taken in silence, except for periods of remarkable choral song, by the group of Holy Men, singing "Agnus Dei," in Latin, and the later church choir, with the well known and beloved Rev. William Baker, formerly rector of St. Matthews in this city serving as Pre-

late. The costuming was done with exactness and beauty, and extremely good characterization. There were moments of genuine drama, in this silent march; as the time when the blue and gray soldiers of the Civil war joined forces to part no more; when capital and labor made a united progress together, and when the Sublime Prince of the Masonic order walked close to one of low degree. To Delmar D. Darrah, known for years in all this region, and in many parts of the country, for his high dramatic genius, is due the credit of arranging, staging and directing the entire stupendous production. The prologue in particular was all his original work. Those who took part in it included:

The Sacristan, Henry Hart; the Monk, Harry M. Rhodes; The Nun, Clara G. Mott; the Bishop, C. E. Baxter; the Cardinal, Wm. L. Baptist; the Holy Men, Roy Atkinson, Alfred Vanness, Harry E. Johnson, Geo. W. Marton, Samuel Tee, Clark E. Stewart, Godfrey Olson, Orin Meeker, Harry F. Admire, C. Haynes, Dale James, Rudolph Byquist, J. Edward Johnson, Harold D. Saurer; the Beggar, Lyman Tay; the Pilgrim, Jess Willis; the Esquire, Walter Schloeffel; the Peasant, Lyman Weekley; the Fool, John Coupe; the Woman, Frieda Muhl; the Cripple, William Diebold; the Page, Lester Schloeffel; the Queen, Helen Chambers; the King, Chas. E. Dagenhart; the Puritans, T. D. Cantrell, Christyne Koen; the Quakers, Mae Maurer, Bert Simpkins; the Patriot, L. M. Crosthwaite; the Gray, Alfred O. Brown; the Blue, C. O. Hamilton; Pleasure, George B. Perry; Sorrow, Marietta Cantrell; Education, O. J. Hougham; Charity, Eldo M. Moore; Philosophy, Louis O. Jackson; the Bride, Eva Hileman; the soldier, James E. Roberts; the Sailor, Harris Burdette; the General, Walter Nierstheimer; the Laborer, Otto Richter; the Capitalist, Ray Campbell; the statesman, Wm. L. Gerth; the Mason, E. G. Harrison; the Sublime Prince, John W. Birney; Cross Bearer, J. R. Postlethwait; Acolyte, Ray Spears; Acolyte, John Ove; Choir, Roy Atkinson, Harold D. Saurer, George W. Marton, J. Edward Johnson, Godfrey Olson, C. Haynes, Rudolph Byquist, M. J. Rawley, Harry F. Admire, Harry E. Johnson, Alfred Vanness, Samuel Tee, Clark E. Stewart, Orin Meeker, Axel E. Olson, Dale James; Candle Bearers, Tim Perry, L. G. Chadband; Deacons, Jacob Brown, John Hileman; Crozier Bearer, Roy Hayes; Prelate, William Baker.

FRED HITCH AS THE CHRIST

When the curtain rose upon the first scene, among the hills of Palestine, Jesus, most reverently and marvelously impersonated by Frederic Hitch, was teaching his disciples and the multitude. Nearly four hours later came the impressive ascension scene as the closing. In all that time Mr. Hitch was engaged practically every moment in the development of his most difficult part. It is safe to say that nothing like this has ever been attempted on such a scale on this side of Oberammergau, while to an American, this work in his own tongue gained a more vivid force than could any representation however worthy, in a foreign language.

The work of Mr. Hitch seemed beyond criticism for beauty and elevation, and the extreme pathos of his presentation, its dignity and purity are worthy of the highest possible praise. The entire scope of the ministry of Jesus was presented; scenes of healing the sick, blind and lunatics; the bringing to life of Jairus's daughter; the tremendous scene of the raising of Lazurus; the cleansing of the temple from the money changers; the beauty of Palm Sunday's hosannas; the agony of Gethsemane; the rage of the trial; the terrible perfidy of Judas, and his later awful doom; the almost unbearable sorrow of the scourging and crowning with thorns; the awful crucifixion scene, and the realistic resurrection; then the faith and peace and glory of the close, made up the complete earthly life-story of Christ in his maturity.

MASTERED MANY DETAILS

A thousand greater and less values made each their definite and individual impression. It was learned in the great Christmas Pageant how well these two hundred and fifty trained Consistory Players can handle street and mob scenes; how true to Oriental and Roman life is their costuming, and how many actors the number includes who have great histronic talent. An early vivid scene showed the pathetic little dead daughter of Jairus, taken by Louise Archdale, with her weeping mother portrayed by Winifred Kate James, while the wailing mourners made a true Eastern picture. Others in this scene were:

Henry Stanbery, as Judas, created a great part. In the Oberammergau play, it is always considered second only to the part of Jesus in difficulty. Mr. Stanbery played it with terrific force and energy. Alfred O. Brown as Nathaniel, one of the Sanhedrin, countered him well in scene ten, which they took alone, and which developed the fall of Judas. George Marton, as Malachi, the blind man, whose sight was restored by a miracle and whose powerful testimony in scene twelve, and whose consistent loyalty to Jesus, constituted a strong part, was more faithful even than the disciples. His rendition gained high praise. Howard Frank, as Golbus, the Roman captain and leader, had a powerful part and carried it magnificently.

BROUGHT TO JESUS

A quiet seene of great power was shown when a woman taken in sin was brought to Jesus, and violently accused by a group of Jewish officials. This Sanhedrin group, who figured in many scenes where powerful passions were well portrayed included some of the finest actors of the Consistory Players, such as: L. M. Crosthwaite, Jacob H. Brown, Alfred O. Brown, Elbert G. Harrison, Charles E. Dagenhart, Jess Willis, Wm. L. Baptist, Chas. A. Fenn, C. E. Baxter, L. T. Baugh. This entire scene, where Jesus wrote upon the ground, though simpler than many, was yet extremely vivid. The

terrible Judas-tree, on which he was to hang himself, will be a nightmare in memory for years, to many; the sweet loyalty of the children of the play, was charming, whose number included; Russell Klawitter, Boyd Jackson, John Koen, Wayne Blum, Gerard Perry, Richard DuBois, Fay Frank, Paul Peters, James L. Jackson, Lozzetta Bowmaster, Mary Elane Frank, Eileen Peters, Florence Coupe, Jeannette Coupe, Willis Blum, Louise Archdale, Annabelle Zink, Haws Hiatt, Harry Frank, Charlotte L. Jackson, Howard Frank, Billie Virginia Birney. The beauty of the women of the play was everywhere remarked. The parts of the Marys and Martha, Joanna, Esther, Leah, Tamar, Ruth Esther, Sarah and others, were most ably taken by Mesdames Clara Mott, Frieda Muhl, Daisy Birney, Bess Ethell, Marietta Cantrell, Clara Koogle, Florence Baptist, Carrie L. Thompson, Tress McElheny, Ora Weekly, Helen Hiatt and others.

A. J. GRAVES AS PILATE

Arthur James Graves, as Pilate, the Roman ruler, was a Roman of the Romans; classic, adequate and cold in Roman dignity. He carried this part in his well known perfect style. Associated with him was a Roman group who acted with fine characterization, including; James Roberts, Harold D. Saurer, H. C. Simpkins, Frank. C. Fisher, Thomas Stockdale, William H. Vanderbur, Deloss Funk, Eldo M. Moore, A. R. Cowart, Ed. C. Meeker, Louis B. Jackson, John A. Shirk.

Art in high forms lived upon the Consistory stage. In the scene of the last supper, where all the disciples were gathered; John, Albert M. Murray; Peter, Fred L. Muhl; Andrew, John A. Scott; James, Son of Zebedee, H. S. Munro; Philip, William W. Tilden; Thomas, Andrew DuBois; Matthew, George H. Johnson; James the Less, W. J. Bowmaster; Thaddeus, John J. Jones, Simeon, Fred Blum; Bartholomew, Lon K. Anthony; Judas, Henry Stanbery; the great picture of Italy, by Leonardo da Vinci, seemed to appear in breathing presence, while in the Pilate scene, there were memories of "Christ Before Pilate", by Munkacsy.

MUSIC AIDS EFFECTS

The accompanying music throughout the many hours heightened strongly the effects. The song for the shepherds as they carried the lambs; the chorus, "Into the Woods the Master Went," at the Garden of Gethsemane; and the pleading notes of "He Was Despised", from the Messiah, as a solo, after the scene of scourging, were all highly effective. Mrs. Gladys Saurer, in constant pipe organ work, gave the musical basis continually; Harold Dale Saurer was the director of the stage music; C. Roy Atkinson, of the Choir music, while Chester Hamilton played the cathedral chimes. The soloists included:

First Choir--Soprano, Lela M. Long; alto, Ethel I
tenor, C. Roy Atkinson; base, Dale James.

Second Choir--Soprano, Olive Nance; alto, Ruth K.
tenor, DeWitt Miller; bass, Harold D. Saurer.

Great praise was won by the orchestral accompaniments, played by Miss Ruth Yoder, violin; Miss Josephine Farmer, violin; Miss Virginia Husted, cello; Chester Hamilton, piano and chimes.

OTHERS IN THE PAGEANT

Others not previously named, having parts in the great pageant who all took parts of value were: Abaddon, M. O. Hiatt; Gaba, Ray Spears; Haman, T. D. Cantrell; Gabbon, Walter Schloeffel; Edar, F. I. Archdale; Caleb, Burton Herrick; Imnah, J. E. Johnson; Piram, Mark Ethell; Naaman, Louis O. Jackson; Racha, Lyman Weekley; Adah, Frieda Muhl; Sadas, W. L. Gerth; Tabor, John B. Kiger; Bekah, Helen Chambers; Caphira, Florence Baptist; Uriah, John A. Shirk; Hanoch, Henry Hart; Elesa, Elsie Summer; Galgala, Eva Hileman; Zarthan, William Diebold; Abihu, John Hileman; Hannah, Agnes Armstrong; Iropel, Clara G. Mott; Amon, Ray Campbell; Baanias, Frank C. Fisher; Kanah, Orva Uhrie; Edna, May Maurer; Esther, Helen Bair; Naomi, Winnifred James; Perida, Ora B. Weekly; Kenaz, Peter Garber; Shuman, William Diebold; Zephaniah, Elbert G. Harrison; Moab, J. Edward Johnson; Ephraim, G. B. Perry; Melchi, Z. M. Montroy; Simon, Frank C. Fisher; Hannah, Nellie Fielder; Zebulun, Harry M. Rhoads; Rebecca, Helen Bair; Gareb, Arthur J. Graves; Josophat, Alfred O. Brown; Nadab, John Coupe; Sarah, Mary K. Herrick; Zabad, Burton C. Herrick; Sethur, L. O. Seibert; Lamech, George W. Marton; Abigail, Helen Simpkins; Ketura, V. C. Hayes; Achad, Otto Richter; Pharos, Bert W. Green; Janna, Charles R. Fletcher; Mordecai, Joe Schneeberger; Esdras, Frank Geiger; Akirop, Henry Clarke; Martha, Clara G. Mott; Mary, Frieda Muhl; Eleazer, James Smith; Seth, Eugene Pitts; Abishar, W. Diebold; Bezallel, V. C. Hayes; Obediah, Walter Schloeffel; Melchi, Earl Bach; Silas, F. I. Archdale; Jacob, Walter Nierstheimer; Aram, Tim Perry; Salmon, Ray Spears; Obed, Lyman Weekly; Jesse, John Coupe; EZekias, Otto Richter; Amon, Frank Geiger; Achim, Harry M. Rhoads; Nathan, Henry Clarke; Jacob, Bert Simpkins; Esdras, George B. Perry; Ezekiel, H. Burdette; Amon, Tim Perry.

STAFF HIGHLY PRAISED

The entire executive staff has worked for weeks at a thousand details, all of which added to the perfection of the result. This staff included:

Director, Delmar D. Darrah; stage manager, Abe L. Livingston; assistant stage manager, Oscar Muhl; assistants, Bert A. Harvey, Charles R. Rienow, Charles A. Dimmitt, Lawrence Lovell, Frank Franke, D. C. Martin; master of lights, James G. Gray; electrician, Jack Friedland; assistant electricians, W. A.

Butler, Wm. A. Koogle; technician, Clyde V. Noble; master of curtains, John G. Lovell; master of scenery, Fred A. Blivernicht; master of properties, H. A. Schumacher; assistant, Chas. A. Wheelock; stereoscopist, C. Roy Johnson; stage carpenter, Rudolph Garling; registrar, George B. Perry.

Wardrobe--Master of wardrobe, Wm. A. Schausten; assistants, Wm. Baker, Byrl Bowman, Will A. Pagels; wardrobe mistress, Carrie Dunkin.

Ushers--Chief of ushers, John W. Probasco.

Receiving Ushers--Wm. L. Rayburn, O. C. Hamilton.

Main Floor--C. C. Wagner, W. H. Cummings, R. O. Ahlenius, Charles O. Brokaw, Nimrod Mace, Lee J. Karr.

Balcony--J. H. Allen, J. W. Probasco, Edward Gatliff, George Egan.

Door Men--Parke C. Gillespie, F. W. Buelow, S. R. Hilts, A. L. Van Ness.

Physicians--Frank C. Fisher, F. W. Brian, Goy A. Sloan, H. L. Howell, D. D. Raber, L. L. Irwin.

TO BOOST THE CITY

It is greatly to be hoped that the Bloomington Consistory will make this amazing production an annual custom. There is not a shadow of doubt that if this is done, the fame of our mid-western city will go from ocean to ocean, and even across the seas. Just as the church in earliest days taught by means of drama, so this great work, by its lessons and deep impressions, has more value in genuine Bible teaching and incitement to noble living than any other imaginable agency. Bloomington Consistory has embraced a great opportunity, and already conferred an inestimable privilege.

HISTORY
of the
ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCE OF BLOOMINGTON

by

Mary Ethel Shade

H I S T O R Y

of the

ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCE OF BLOOMINGTON

History is not made in an instant. It grows with each second of each day of each year. History worth recording is builded by men of vision. It was men of vision who started building the history of the present Association of Commerce of Bloomington. It has been men of vision who have kept the organization functioning.

Too often a calamity must come to find, deep in the hearts of the people, the hidden spirit of regard for their fellowmen, loyalty to their community and an unselfish desire to be of service.

It was when Bloomington lay in ashes, following the great fire of 1900, that this spirit of cooperation among her people found expression ... it was then that the business men saw, if again Bloomington would rise to her former or even greater height, it would be only by the united effort of all citizens.

On the evening of November 22, 1900 a mass meeting was held in the old Washington Hall, then known as the Leader Building. Present were 200 leading business men of Bloomington. After preliminary discussion it was decided to form a permanent organization for mutual advantage. Eighty-nine men signed the roll as charter members of the new association.

Officers elected ... President, Benjamin F. Harber of Harber Brothers - 1st Vice President, C. P. Soper, American Foundry and Furnace Company - Treasurer, C. W. Klemm, of C. W. Klemm, Inc.

Directors elected ... S. R. White, A. H. Hoblit, Robert Johnson, Maurice Levy, Frank Oberkoetter, Milton R. Livingston, John Eddy, H. B. Harwood, Oscar Mandel and Louis Fitz Henry.

This group of business men who had met and developed the organization chose to call it the "Business Men's Association" which organization was incorporated in the State of Illinois, March 5, 1901.

Eleven standing committees were named -- Railroad .. Home Industry .. Public Amusement & Celebrations .. House, Entertainment & Membership .. Finance .. Advertising and Press .. Foreign Industry .. Conventions .. Public Improvement .. City and County Legislation. Fifty-one members served on the above named committees. Members recorded numbered 225.

All of these men, of course, had great confidence in the future of Bloomington. In one of their early publications was featured this statement, -

"No business, no public enterprise, no religious plan even, will succeed any more than a political party will, without an organization. It is indispensable to success in all the greater affairs of men".

Early in 1901 offices were fitted up in the Eddy Building ... R. F. Berry chosen as the first office secretary and work begun which was destined to accomplish much for the good of the city in the coming years.

January 12, 1902 the first annual meeting banquet was held with President B. F. Harber as Toastmaster. The program centered around reports depicting the work which had transpired during the year and a "look into the future" with short addresses by active members, as follows:

Our City.	Mayor L. B. Thomas
Our Association	John Eddy
The Press	J. B. Bates
Bloomington as an Interurban Center	R. F. Evans
Manufacturing Possibilities of Bloomington.	A. E. DeMange
Railroads of Bloomington	Louis FitzHenry
Wholesale Trade of Bloomington.	H. C. Hawk
Retail Trade of Bloomington	M. Levy
Relations of Labor to Business.	J. B. Lannon
Business Man and the Lawyer	John T. Lillard
Business Man and the Doctor	Dr. J. B. Taylor

The addresses given at the 2d annual meeting banquet shows the unselfish desire of the officers, board of directors, committee chairmen and members in general, for a greater community. Such subjects as -

Our Association	R. F. Evans
The Press - It's Influence	J. B. Bates
The Church - It's Influence	Rev. G. W. Scott
Bloomington - It's Fame Abroad	H. H. Green
Bloomington - It's Past, It's Present, It's Future	Thomas Kerrick
Bloomington - It's Needs	R. R. Johnson

All through the years there has been the same theme, the same ambition ... it is the same today as yesterday. It is patterned the same but expanded, broadened and of greater depth. The work of an Association of Commerce is patterned over a long-range program ... major projects cannot be completed within a year - and the most worthwhile projects are not completed for many a year.

The first 5 years the Business Men's Association operated in a rather informal manner and with meager funds. Quarters were moved to the 2d floor of the Stephens-Smith Building ... shortly afterward to a single room in the Unity Building, in fact, its secretary had but a desk in an attorneys office ... and then the office was moved to a room on the first floor of the Illinois Hotel Building where the work was carried on for a couple of years.

In 1905 Secretary Berry passed away and William Schmidt was named office secretary, devoting his time between the needs of the Association and his own business.

The Business Men's Association was confronted with problems of further development of the railroads and their services to the community, health and recreational facilities, and, the need for public improvements. Attracting people to Bloomington to make their future homes, to invest in business and to make Bloomington their trading center was also an important factor.

1910 found the officers and members more intensely concerned with the development of public improvement, jobbing, retailing, local legislation and governmental affairs, the protection of home industry, and the development of new industry. Particular interest was in the Chicago & Alton Railroad which company had under consideration the enlargement of their shops and the building of a new depot along with other numerous improvements, these improvements to become a reality provided the citizens of Bloomington would donate sufficient ground to carry out the proposed expansion and improvement. Thru the efforts of the Bloomington Business Men's Association a campaign for funds was conducted ... $165,000 raised and on July 5, deeds to the property purchased with these funds were handed to the Chicago & Alton Railroad Company.

Upon the resignation of Mr. Schmidt, Joseph Joplin, traffic manager for Harber Brothers became general secretary.

January 31, 1912 the name of the Bloomington Business Men's Association was changed to the Commercial Club of Bloomington. The more important activities of the Commercial Club of Bloomington in this period centered around education and agriculture, with emphasis placed upon the enlargement campaign for Illinois Wesleyan University and the erection of a highschool building.

J. Heber Hudson, a local boy and a wholesale millinery salesman was hired in 1914 as executive secretary. Mr. Hudson proved himself a very successful and popular secretary with the great ability to influence men and women to cooperate in the accomplishment of worthwhile local community projects.

In this same year offices for the Commercial Club were established in the Griesheim Building.

With the passing of the horse and carriage and the coming of the automobile it became more apparent that all roads leading into Bloomington, because of McLean County's rich soil, were many times impassable. If farmer and city folk were to be united in friendly association and business relationship,

better, more dependable roads were necessary. Time, effort and money went into the planning, experiment and development of the gravel road and the Good Roads Committee of the Club was busy with oiling projects and the securing of right-of-way for state paved roads. In this period also, the Credit Rating Department was added to the Commercial Club with J. B. Havens manager.

One of the most important achievements was the forming of the McLean County Better Farming Association - an organization of farmers for the purpose of improving conditions and increasing the productivity of the McLean County land. The Agriculture Committee, chairmaned by G. C. (Lyle) Johnstone spent many months studying the need, operation and worthwhileness of such an organization and in interesting farmers and soliciting memberships. Office space and facilities, supplies, stenographic services were made available to this new and valuable organization until such time as their income would make them self-supporting.

David O. Thompson of LaFayette, Indiana was selected as County Farm Advisor and entered upon his duties in April 1915. The combination of the Commercial Club and the Better Farming Association (known later as McLean County Farm Bureau) was most satisfactory and much was done toward cementing the ties between the farmer and the business man.

These two organizations, in addition to the promotion of many important agricultural activities, operated the Corn Show which was held in the Bloomington Coliseum and which building was transformed into a Corn Palace. 24,000 people visited this exposition the week of November 1-8, 1915.

Because of the growth of both the Better Farming Association and the Commercial Club more commodious quarters were needed and in May 1918 these organizations moved their offices to the Durley Building.

Commercial organization work is a field of work affected as much, if not more than any other branch of endeavor by constantly changing conditions either in war or peace ... a field of work which must adapt itself to the times.

During World War I, the Commercial Club assisted our country, through Governmental branches and agencies, in various war campaigns such as Red Cross and Liberty Loan Sales, cooperated in Home Defense, Soldiers Relief, Conservation of Food and Coal, in the organization of Company "M" Illinois National Guard and the Student Army Training Corps. In fact, the regular program of the Commercial Club was put aside and all effort turned to war activities.

Following the close of the war through committee and member effort the Illinois Wesleyan University was retained, the proposed removal settledfor all times; the Meadows Manufacturing Company procured, 40 acres of land purchased (later known as the Association of Commerce Addition) plotted into 208 lots and sold. The newly organized McLean County Home Bureau assisted and housed, (until it was firmly established). The Credit Rating Department was enlarged. Mr. Havens resigned to enter business for himself and William Tuohy was named in charge of this work.

The Traffic Bureau was established as a subsidiary of the Commercial Club for the benefit of members, especially industrial firms, in the routing and tracing of shipments, determining of freight-truck rates, auditing of freight bills, collection of overcharges and many such duties. E. L. Henninger of Bloomington was made manager of the Bureau and Wm. V. Wheat of Peoria, Illinois, rate expert. In 1934 Mr. Oscar C. Swanson of Chicago replaced Mr. Wheat, resigned, and in 1936 following the resignation of Mr. Henninger Mr. Swanson was made manager. Mr. Charles Hafner of Chicago spent the year 1941 in the Traffic Bureau in an advisory capacity.

On April 23, 1922 the Commercial Club of Bloomington changed its name to Association of Commerce of Bloomington and in November of the same year moved its offices into the B. S. Green Building. The McLean County Farm Bureau and the McLean County Home Bureau took up offices in the Hoopes Building.

With heavy demands for credit information the Credit Rating Bureau records were closed to reorganize into a Credit Bureau maintained by memberships and governed by an Executive Board. A full-time manager was employed in the person of E. W. Moeller of Peoria, with Harold Wallace of Sterling, Illinois, -- an Illinois Wesleyan student, as assistant. Only actual ledger information from files kept up-to-date by the Credit Bureau personnel to be used in reporting, thus doing away with the credit-rating-book method. Also to be made available to those members extending credit - information on property transfers, removals and court records and other such information valuable in their business transactions.

Upon the resignation of Mr. Moeller who served three years, Mr. Wallace took over the management. In 1928 Mr. Wallace accepted a position as executive of the Joliet Credit Bureau and his place in the Bloomington office was filled by W. L. Gemberling of Bloomington.

It was in 1926 that Executive Secretary, J. H. Hudson accepted a position with the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce and left the work in Bloomington to enter a larger field with greater opportunity to perform public service. Following Mr. Hudson was F. D. E. Babcock of Worcester, Massachusetts. Mr. Babcock had been affiliated with the Worcester Chamber of Commerce and the U. S. Chamber of Commerce in Boston, Massachusetts.

The Bloomington-Normal Sanitary District project (agitation beginning in 1914) became an important factor in the work of the Association as did the procurement of approval of a new Federal Building of sufficient size to adequately serve the present and future needs of Bloomington. Years were spent in the completion of these projects. Bond issue for the Sanitary District was voted in 1925 and work completed in 1928. Had it not been for the far-sightedness of the Business Men's Association and their contribution of both funds and time, the Federal Building would have been inadequate for Bloomington business within a few years after its erection and the additional ground space would not have been available for future enlargement of the building. E. Mark Evans and Egbert B. Hawk and Judge Homer W. Hall, along with many other prominent Bloomingtonians deserve credit for their untiring effort to accomplish this task. The new Post Office Building was erected in 1932.

Through the Commercial Club Committee interest was created in 1912 in the city's water supply, it's adequacy and purity. Tests and a complete study of conditions were made. From 1917 to 1921 six possible soft water sources near the city were surveyed by reputable engineering firms. The Association's Water Committee, headed by E. Mark Evans unceasingly worked on the project overcoming many and difficult obstacles until in 1930 the last well was closed and from Lake Bloomington (artificial lake) sufficient water to supply the needs of Bloomington was made

available. Bloomington's water ranks among the highest in the State of Illinois in purity and softness.

Although the natural resources of the community prevented Bloomington from a rapid slump in business the depression period slowly came upon all business with its affect striking hard at the Association of Commerce. The members, finding it necessary to reduce their support both financially and physically did, however, hold the Association together even with activities greatly curtailed. As business and professional institutions founded for themselves a more solid footing, so did they for the Association of Commerce.

1930 - through the sponsorship of the Association of Commerce, the McLean County Centennial was held. The county's 100th Birthday Anniversary Pageant of Progress was presented in nature's theatre at Highland Park; the first Bloomington Airport was leased, 5 miles north of Bloomington, equipped with hangar, fuel and repair shop. This Airport was closed when ground was purchased by individual members of the Association in 1934 (later sold to the City of Bloomington), on Route 9, 3 miles east of city.

In November 1934 Mr. Babcock resigned to enter business in Kalamazoo, Michigan and was succeeded by Nate Crabtree, former business manager of Illinois Wesleyan University.

The Community Chest in 1935 was organized by the Association of Commerce thus bringing together into one executive body, the many charitable and character building agencies. This movement combined the individual fund-raising campaign of each agency into one annual collective fund-raising campaign. The Junior Chamber of Commerce was started; in an attempt to solve the ever-increasing parking problem a parking lot was maintained throughout the year for the free use of the general public; assistance given in the retention of the Illinois State Normal University Department of Agriculture. Like all other important community problems, the Association of Commerce throughout its years of service has rendered a definite service to the community by using its influence to aid ISNU in retaining this very valuable department.

In 1936 Mr. Crabtree joined the staff of the Minneapolis, Minnesota, Star and Charles R. Haller, then a resident of Bloomington and city salesman for the Snow & Palmer Dairy was hired to fill the vacancy.

With the completion of some of the major projects whose birth had taken place years back, with the first World War and the depression period in the background, the Association of Commerce returned to the normal and more regular duties of a commercial organization, viz., conventions, industry, legislation,

retail sales events, community betterment, celebrations, civic affairs, cooperation with state and national groups, and other association duties of varied nature.

To become affiliated with the National City Lines, Mr. Haller resigned as Executive Secretary in 1937 and was followed by George F. Reeder. Mr. Reeder was, at the time of his appointment, manager of the Davidson Biscuit Company of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, and former secretary of the Mt. Vernon, Illinois, Chamber of Commerce.

Activities diversified in nature and important to the welfare of business and the advancement of Bloomington continued. Thru the efforts of the National Guard-Armory Committee, a National Guard Unit for Bloomington was obtained in 1937 and the Second Battalion of the 108th Quartermaster Regiment was formed. The Central Illinois Art Exposition, sponsored by the Association of Commerce and 16 other civic groups was held in the Scottish Rite Temple, March 19-April 8, 1939 ... an exhibit of paintings from the best museums and galleries of the country with paintings of the old masters and great moderns and from the best in contemporary American Art. 43,000 persons viewed this exhibition.

The work of a commercial organization must of necessity be flexible - change with the needs of the community, the state and the government. The war periods necessitate drastic changes inasmuch as all interests - business, industry, agriculture, education - are affected; new state and national laws become effective and the association must act not only as a clearing house but more or less as a school of instruction and supply-house, until such time as its members can familiarize themselves with the new laws, changes in taxes, and business administration as required by the state and federal government.

During World War II personal contacts of Governmental and War Department officials in Washington to secure for Bloomington either new Government Defense Plants or contracts for existing local industries were made; the rooms of the association were opened for meetings and consultations with Government employees, distribution of informative material on Safety Engineering, Conservation of Manpower, National Defense, W. P. B. Priorities, Declaration of Policy, Experience Rating, O. P. A., Tire & Gas Rationing, Industrial Salvage, Regulation "W", Bond Drives and numerous other necessary functions of a war-time period.

In September 1943 Secretary Reeder took over the management of the Moline, Illinois, Association of Commerce and

Floyde D. Sperry of the Paducah, Kentucky, Chamber of Commerce and formerly of the Urbana, Illinois, Chamber of Commerce accepted the duty of carrying forth the innumerable responsibilities of the Association of Commerce of Bloomington.

The close of the war turned the Association's attention, once again, to work of a more normal and civic nature - fire protection, sewers-drainage, home planning, cooperation with agricultural groups, adult education courses, vocational training for highschool students, parking and many other promotions all for the welfare of the citizens and the betterment of the community.

Bloomington's 100th amiversary was recognized in October 1950. The Association of Commerce held a prominent place in the promotion and the carrying out of a completely successful celebration, the outstanding feature of the celebration being the Pageant of Progress held at Illinois Wesleyan Stadium.

1950 finds some 20 new industries were brought into Bloomingtonduring the war and in the post war era - 1950 finds the Municipal Airport completed to meet Government regulations and to give to Bloomington passenger, mail and express air service - 1950 finds the Armory (a vision of a few men back in 1936) under construction the development of which took unlimited time not only in Association of Commerce and City Official meetings, but in conferences with officials of Airlines, with the Governor and Legislators of the State of Illinois.

1950 finds the Association of Commerce of Bloomington with 24 directors compared with 10 in 1901; - 27 standing committees compared with 11 in 1901; - with 300 committee members serving on standing committees against 51 in 1901; - with more than 600 members against 225 in 1901.

Since the organization of the Association of Commerce it has been a leader in the community and has performed great public service under the leadership of many of the able and distinguished men of the city. The Directors and Committees have always been men who are leaders in their chosen fields who have given freely of their knowledge and experience in the problems of their fellow citizens. No selfish motives have actuated their efforts. A great deal of the best work done by Boards of this character is the kind that attracts little, if any public attention - the "laboratory work", so to speak.

The assemblage and contact of ideas, the study of reactions, the tests of mutual and conflicting opinions, the sorting and sifting of community thought, operations that may be on for a long time without specific triumph of achievements, but which, in the end will raise the level of the community thought in its application to our social, industrial and civic affairs.

The officers of the association are but agents who seek to carry the organization forward to a new and greater usefulness.

Following are the names of officers since the inception of the organization. Directors are not listed but some 400 leading business men have served in this capacity. Listed also are the names of those persons serving on the staff, not already mentioned in the article.

Office Secretaries

Business Men's Association	Elsie Knortz William Bright
Commercial Club	Gladys Hudson John Tuohy Helen Hockett
Association of Commerce	Mary Ethel Shade Mrs. Lois Wilson Mrs. Violet Sealock Mrs. Muriel Hanback Mary Frances Ford Betty Orendorff Doris Kron Bernadine Reidel
Traffic Bureau	Frieda Yarke Margaret Trenkle Casaline Stephenson Betty Trenkle Verrel Hoots

Recording Secretaries

Business Men's Association	W. L. Evans Fred B. Capen

Treasurers

J. W. Cowden
F. D. Marquis
Frank M. Rice
J. J. Pitts
Adolph Wochner
Walter L. Rust
Carl Niedermeyer
C. J. Northrup
E. W. Cole
H. H. Rust
Phil Wood
Frank Howell
C. R. McElheny
Leonard Wochner
J. J. Condon
H. K. Hoblit
David Wochner
Wm. L. Moore
Russell Shearer
W. V. McKenzie
Fred L. Brown

Vice-Presidents

R. F. Evans
Maurice Levy
R. C. Baldwin
J. O. Willson
George H. Miller
W. S. Harwood
Alonzo Dolan
A. S. Smith
Eldo M. Moore
O. Lloyd Welsh
C. W. Klemm
Paul F. Beich
Oscar Mandel
George A. Washburn
L. G. Whitmer
Egbert B. Hawk
Davis Merwin
C. J. Northrup
P. A. Washburn
William Tick
B. F. Harber
T. S. Bunn
M. R. Livingston
W. K. Bracken
Campbell Holton
W. L. Moore
Ned E. Dolan
Joe Bunting
R. B. Still

Presidents

1901-1902	B. F. Harber	1903-1904	John Eddy
1905	Samuel R. White	1906	John J. Pitts
1907	H. H. Green	1908-1909	Paul F. Beich
1910-1911	Alonzo Dolan	1912-1913	G. B. Read
1914-1915	George A. Washburn	1916	G. C. Heberling
1917-1918	R. C. Baldwin	1919-1920	E. M. Evans
1921-1922	L. G. Whitmer	1923-1924	M. R. Livingston
1925-1926	W. S. Harwood	1927-1928	R. O. Ahlenius
1929-1930	H. K. Hoblitt	1931-1932	Fred W. Wollrab
1933-1934	J. W. Rodgers, Jr.	1935-1936	Otto G. Beich
1937-1938	B. F. Hiltabrand	1939	Meritt A. Gifford
1940	Ralph Freese	1941	Ned E. Dolan
1942	Charles H. Snow	1943-1944	Richard F. Dunn
1945-1946	Aaron Brooks	1947	Eugene D. Funk, Jr.
1948	P. A. Washburn	1949	Harold Walsh
1950	O. Lloyd Welsh		

Pages - many, many pages more could be written and then the entire story of the 50 years of Association of Commerce work could not be told. These pages of Association of Commerce history prove ... that,

Deep in the hearts of the people is regard for their fellowmen, loyalty to their community and an unselfish desire to be of service ... that,

Years after the man with the vision has stepped out from the line of duty HIS VISION has been realized and has become a reality for the good of the community which he loved and for which he worked.

By

Mary Ethel Shade
Assistant Secretary
Association of Commerce of Bloomington

November 1950

Facts relative to organizing of business men and of the first offices taken from McLean County History, by J. L. Hasbrouck, Former Editor The Daily Pantagraph

Other facts compiled from minutes, reports, records made by Executive Secretaries of the Association of Commerce of Bloomington

THE BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL FORUM

by

John A. Kinneman

Professor, Sociology

Illinois State Normal University

The Bloomington-Normal Forum

by
John A. Kinneman
Professor, Sociology
Illinois State Normal

When the social history of the first half of the twentieth century is completed, much attention must be given to an analysis of the democratic art of public discussion. Town meetings and forums, symposia and round tables, discussion groups and reviewing stands have emerged from the grass roots and have come to occupy neighborhood houses, parish halls, and spacious auditoriums. They have taken over the national air channels; they have developed and enriched the art of discussion. All this has been done to the end, we may hope, that a citizenry of greater discipline and insight might emerge.

To report for the record, the Bloomington-Normal Forum completed its thirtieth season in April, 1949, with the appearance of John Mason Brown in Capen Auditorium. It dates from 1919 when Rupert Holloway--then pastor of the Unitarian Church--induced the Board of Trustees of his church to make a modest grant of one hundred dollars for operating a forum. In its initial stages the forum was the result of the indefatigable labors of Mr. Holloway. Also, it received the support of critical and informed citizens who, even in those pioneer days at the conclusion of the First World War, saw the necessity for and recognized the implications of adult education. The press, too, played an important part in the development of the local forum. The two daily papers--The Daily Pantagraph and The Evening Bulletin--which were published in the community at the time were generous with space. Years later, in correspondence with the author, Mr. Holloway commented that he could not "speak too highly of the part the newspapers played in building up the forum...."

Although the forum was initiated by Mr. Holloway, his departure in 1926 in no way lessened interest in the organization. The church continued its encouragement and successive ministeres labored to promote its success.

Mr. Holloway's successor as minister of the Unitarian Church was Edwin Palmer. His work in directing the forum was only part of a wider interest which he entertained in many community affairs. Upon Mr. Palmer's departure in 1933 Dr. B. G. Carpenter, once the distinguished pastor of the Universalist Church in Peoria, served as interim minister of the Unitarian Church and brought to the local forum a wide interest and a keen insight which he had acquired in directing a similar activity in Peoria.

I The Birth of the Forum

The initial grant of one hundred dollars was supplemented during subsequent years by subscriptions from citizens. Funds contributed by these subscribers were enhanced by collections lifted during the course of the meetings. Thus, speakers were paid moderate fees while, for years, the Unitarian Church contributed the use of its auditorium as the meeting place. This combination of subscriptions and collections continued for more than a decade. Then, with the rising costs of programs and no comparable increase in collections, but with the assurance that a genuine demand for a forum existed, it became necessary to charge a nominal admission.

Attendance during the early years "was meagre," according to Mr. Holloway. However, it was not many years before standing room in the church auditorium, with a maximum seating capacity of 450, was at a premium at many of the meetings. Even during the years of its pioneer development there were occasions when overflow sessions were held in theater buildings where more ample seating accommodations were provided.

It is not difficult to understand the popularity of the forum in its early days. Mr. Holloway had the support of the official board of his church including such persons as David Felmley, H.H.Schroeder, and Lewis G. Stevenson. Also, the pioneer efforts of the forum recruited the early support of many influential citizens who were not identified with the Unitarian Church. Furthermore, the quality and the range of programs which were presented offer eloquent reason for the popularity of the venture. Before radio had come to command the attention of many persons, the program offered on the forum during 1927-1928--the year preceding Mr. Holloway's resignation from his pastorate--consisted of 21 lectures. The season opened on October 23 with Edmund Vance Cook and continued every Sunday evening, except for a brief interval at the Christmas season, until March 18. In addition to Mr. Cook, the year's offerings included, among others, such names as Clark Eichelberger, Rhys J. Davies, John Van Druten, John Langdon-Davies, James Waterman Wise, Bruce Bliven, Lewis Browne, Arthur Guiterman, and Norman Angell.

Bloomington-Normal, situated on a main-line railroad between Chicago and St. Louis, has had no difficulty procuring speakers. Easily accessible to the University of Illinois and to the intellectual life of Chicago, the forum, even in its pioneer days, had no serious talent problems. As the years passed, some reliance was made upon commercial agencies, especially those which recognized their obligations for the education of adults by offering good speakers at reasonable fees.

II Machinery reorganized

During the first two decades of its existence, opinion began to crystallize on the belief that responsibility for the forum should be more widely shared. Finally, in 1939, the Unitarian minister, Rudolph W. Gilbert, did the "spade work" of initiating a program by which each

of several organizations in the community assumed responsibility for sponsoring a speaker. Among these are the local chapter of the American Association of University Professors, the local chapter of the American Association of University Women, the local branch of the Federation of Teachers, the Business and Professional Women's Club, the Laymen's League of the Unitarian Church, the local Civil Liberties Committee, and the county unit of the Leauge of Women Voters. The Church Council and the Trades and Labor Assembly have functioned similarly but only at varying intervals. The county Medical Society, the Rotary Club, and the local Farm Bureau sponsored speakers on occasion. One of the promising organizations to affiliate during the later years is the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

When the framework of the forum was reorganized in 1939, Harry Melby, the General Secretary of the Y.M.C.A., was elected president--a post which he held for seven years. He was succeeded by John A. Kinneman who served as president from 1946 to 1950. In addition to setting up the organizational machinery for the forum, Mr. Gilbert served as its first secretary, terminating this with the resignation of his pastorate. His successors, in order, were Frances Elfstrand, Mary Jeannette Munce, and Portia Alexander. Under this community-wide reorganization the chairmanship of the Program Committee was held successively for one year by Mr. Gilbert, then for six years by Mr. Kinneman, for one year by Miss Elfstrand, and by Mr. Melby for three years. During the eleven-year interval from 1939 to 1950 three men--Jonathan Rowell, Lincoln Behr, and Howard J. Ivens served successively as treasurer. Also, the forum public is under a special obligation to many persons who, through their consistent attendance at meetings and expecially because of their success in the sale of season tickets, helped make the program possible year after year. Among the most outstanding of these are Joseph F. Bohrer, Will H. Johnson,

and Barbara Lennon.

III Function of the Forum

The educational function of our forum is three-fold. Through the presentation of lectures by authorities, together with the question periods which follow, the auditors are provided, as in the case of most forums, with an opportunity to gain factual insight and to garner varied points of view. For a decade there has been carried on the printed programs the declaration that "the Forum is a civic enterprise which makes available to the people of the community, at no profit to any person or organization, competent persons of outstanding reputation who speak on a variety of subjects and from various points of view." From a second angle, the members of participating organizations come to recognize that they have an educational obligation to fulfill to the larger community, and they frequently take pride in the speakers they present and even in the number of season tickets they sell. Finally, the participating organizations develop a larger sense of community responsibility, thereby using the forum board as an additional vehicle of community unity.

The current machinery of the Bloomington-Normal Forum is similar to that commonly employed by other community agencies. The forum board, as it is now constituted, consists of two persons from each participating organization. In addition, to provide wider participation and responsibility, the association has a limited number of board members chosen from the community at large.

Except for those times when an overflow audience was housed in a theater or other public auditorium, the local forum was accommodated for a quarter century in the auditorium of the Unitarian Church. During the 1943-1944 season it was necessary to move to larger quarters in the auditorium of the Bloomington High School where accommodations approximate a thousand seats.

IV Finances

The audiences have increased gradually and the treasurer's records on the sale of season tickets indicate consistent growth. This is shown in Table 1. Although the forum operates with "no profit to any person or organization," the board has been able to accumulate a small reserve to meet adverse conditions which are certain to develop as the quality of the programs subsides, as subscribers fail to sustain attention, or as national or international crises seem less apparent. Season tickets, offering admission usually to eight or nine members, were sold for many years for $2.50, including federal tax. Beginning with the 1948-1949 season, the price of the season ticket was raised to $3.00. Student tickets, purchased by students in colleges or high school, have been one dollar.

Table 1

Season Tickets Sold by Forum*

Year	Regular	Student	Total
1941-1942	394	79	473
1943-1944	515	103	618
1944-1945	639	191	830
1945-1946	693	174	867
1946-1947	734	229	963
1947-1948	678	175	853

*Compiled from the Annual Reports of the Treasurer

This promising expansion arises from a variety of factors. One of these is the nucleus of persons who have maintained a consistent interest in the work. Many of these are recruited from the ranks of teachers--many teachers have served on the board. Furthermore, substantial support has been derived from the local chapter of the American Association of University Professors. A second emerges from the constant improvement in the quality of annual programs. Another is the increasing responsibility

by many persons for the success of the venture. Success and growth breed confidence and develop morale. Finally, those responsible for the progress have avoided sensationalism of all kinds. Instead, through a patient program of educating potential ticket holders, they have diffused the need for a program of adult education of the kind they offer.

With the succeeding years the local forum has increased its expenditures for speakers. While this community endeavor is far from big business, its budget of more than $2,400 for the 1946-1947 season represents a substantial growth from the initial subsidy for $100 granted in 1919. Viewed from another angle, the total cost of speakers increased from $935 in 1940-1941 to $1630 in 1946-1947. Details of this are found in Table 2.

Table 2

Cost of Forum Speakers by Season*

1940-1941	$ 935
1941-1942	1010
1942-1943	1040
1943-1944	1050
1944-1945	1435
1945-1946	1500
1946-1947	1630
1947-1948	1620

*Compiled from the Annual Reports of the Treasurer

V Talent Presented

Those responsible for directing the forum's policy have been able to maintain a nice balance in the subjects discussed. Special pleading has been kept at a minimum. Topics have ranged from China and the Far East to Russia and the Near East, from the domestic scene to the international situation, from modern poetry to contemporary religion, from the New Deal to forces producing the depression, from problems of contemporary labor to current literature, and from race relations to those of crime.

Accordingly, in a term of years, this forum has presented such poets as Robert Frost, Paul Engle, Countee Cullen, Langston Hughes, and Alfred Noyes, and such graphic artists as Grant Wood and Thomas Hart Benton. Race relations have been reviewed by Carey McWilliams, Allison Davis, William Pickens, Horace Cayton, Archibald Carey, Jr., and James Weldon Johnson. Crime and delinquency have been scrutinized by Sanford Bates and by Clifford Shaw while the advantages of and the hazards of civil liberty have been reviewed by Francis J. McConnell, John Haynes Holmes, K. M. Landis, Phillips Bradley, and Roger Baldwin. Problems of medical care have been discussed by Louis Berg, Michael Davis, Morris Fishbein, and William C. McCarty. Current literature has been held up for examination by John Van Druten, Joseph Wood Krutch, Edward Weeks, Carl Van Doren, Robert M. Lovett, John Mason Brown, and Sterling North. At different times Jerome Davis, Anna Louise Strong, Samuel Harper, and Eugene Kayden presented their seasoned glimpses into the life of contemporary Russia. Through the years editorial insight has been furnished by Oscar Ameringer, Bruce Bliven, Hamilton Holt, William Lygate, Max Lerner, Walter Myer, Felix Morley, Gerhart Seger, Ordway Tead, and Henry A. Wallace. The academic world has furnished its quota of representatives in Harry Elmer Barnes, E. A. Ross, Max Otto, Gordon Watkins, E. L. Bogart, Eustace Hayden, Kirtley Mather, T. V. Smith, Mortimer Adler, Clark Kuebler, William McGovern, Paul H. Douglas, William D. Spencer, William Y. Elliott, and the University of Chicago Round Table. WingTsit Chan, Upton Close, and Hallett Abend are among those who brought impressions from the Orient. Latin America has been examined by the penetrating observations of Hubert Herring, Isabel de Palencia, Edward Tomlinson, and Samuel Guy Inman. The peace to follow the Second World War was reviewed, among others, by

Anton de Haas, Helen Kirkpatrick, and Louis Fischer, From the field of religion our platform has recruited Ferdinand Isserman, Louis Mann, Edward S. Ames, Edgar DeWitt Jones, Raymond Bragg, Paul Weaver, Ralph Sockman, and Sherwood Eddy. Social welfare has introduced us to E. T. Devine, Joel Hunter, and Mary Austin. From the realm of government Josephine Roche and Chase Going Woodhouse brought their messages to the local community. Clarence Darrow came to shock us; Norman Thomas to convert us; Scott Nearing to make an accurate prediction of details of the great depression of the thirties; Stefansson almost convinced us of the necessity for settling in the Arctics.

VI Evaluation

The success of the local institution, if success can be claimed, arises from an avoidance of the costly. Local supporters have not been tempted by the "household names" at a thousand dollars a night or even at half that fee.

Second, there has been avoidance of the columnists and correspondents who have traded on the "first to arrive" or the "last to leave" technique. A speaker's understanding of the theories and practices of Fascism is far more important than having shaken hands with Mussolini! Never have we suffered from the plight of the dowager who was once caricatured as saying to a troubled booking agent, "but last month we paid only half as much for a lecturer who'd been torpedoed twice as often."

Entertainment and illustrated lectures are banned. No aid and comfort has been given to travel talks. Within limits there has been success in gambling with ideas and in selling adult education. An attempt has been made to humanize and even to popularize the informative, instructive, and stimulative. In achieving this goal, only part of which

has been attained, there is no substitute for patient adherence to the idea that the public's indifference to education must be opposed by tactful promotion.

Those responsible for the determination of policies have not been without problems. Federal taxes did not threaten our existence but they made inroads into our budget. During the era of high federal taxes, attendance mounted and the officers were obliged to find larger and more costly quarters for a meeting place. After some experimentation our ticket holders were confronted with questionnaires to determine the most convenient hour of meeting as well as other matters of operation. As an adaptation to train schedules and therefore to speakers, most of the meetings have been held during recent years on Sunday afternoons. Even though our forum is the product of the cooperation of representative groups in the community, we recognize the limited interest shown by organized labor and organized agriculture. In this community, as elsewhere, these groups should be recruited into programs of adult education which include more than the exploration of mere vocational interests.

Although an independent and self-supporting existence has been maintained, the forum has shown more than an ordinary capacity to cooperate with the two colleges of the community. This has been done through an occasional joint sponsorship of speakers; by the intermittent presentation of lectures in one of our college auditoriums; also by the sale of a blanket admission for all students and faculty members of one of the community's colleges to programs furnished by the forum.

The local forum, doubtless like those in other communities, has seen its most flourishing days during the dark hours of contemporary

times. The depression of the early thirties provided a period of rejuvenation and resuscitation after the flush and excitement of early development had worn off. Furthermore, those who urged the abandonment of our local institution during the summer of 1941, because troublesome times seemed to be ahead, could not see that the most flourishing era was ready to dawn.

Crises, however, are not necessary for a successful forum. America will ever be in transition. Insurmountable problems will confront us. People who believe in and practice the democratic way of life will seek solutions. Even though some of our supporters grow tired, we can assume that substantial aid for the solution of our common problems must come from the public platform. Community institutions for the education of adults, such as the one in Bloomington-Normal, have many valued supporters who look with pride upon their records of achievement. When the history of the community forum is written, it is hoped that this paper may constitute one footnote of the documentation.

Note: Two scrap books, covering the forum seasons from 1939 to 1950, have been deposited in Withers Library. These books include newspaper clippings, annual programs, and some mimeographed financial statements.

HISTORY OF BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL COUNCIL OF GIRL SCOUTS, INC.

by

MRS. A.P. KAYE AND MRS. GEORGE N. WELLS

HISTORY OF BLOOMINGTON - NORMAL COUNCIL OF GIRL SCOUTS, INC.

Early History

The first formal organization of Girl Scouting in this community took place on February 11, 1932 when, after a visit from Miss Weldon Everett of the National Field staff, a group of local women met and formed a Community Committee, known as the Bloomington-Normal Community Committee. This group was immediately afterwards licensed by Girl Scouts, Inc., to act as a sponsoring body for the growth and development of Girl Scouting in the communities of Bloomington and Normal. The personnel of this group was drawn from various religious, educational and civic groups and was comprised of the following: Mrs. Joseph Depew, chairman; Miss Winifred Bally, vice-chairman; Mrs. Julia Greenleaf, secretary and treasurer; Mrs. Maude McKibbon, Mrs. G. W. Henderson, Mrs. Harry Howell, Mrs. A. O. Brown, Mrs. W. G. Gooding, Mrs. Dewey Montgomery, and Miss Sadie Allen.

Previous to this time two troops had been active here; one, a lone troop, had at this time become inactive; and the other one at St. Mary's Church, had been registered through the Peoria Council and has since been continuously active. Other troops were organized this year; one at the First Methodist Church, which was later absorbed by two other troops, one at First Christian and one at the Illinois Soldiers and Sailors Children's School under the sponsorship of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Two public Courts of Awards were held where Scouts were given honors and advanced ranks; the first organized camp was held in July, 1932, at Camp Heffernan under Boy Scout leadership. The funds for the various activities were provided by a card party sponsored by the Community Committee.

In February, 1933, Mrs. Porter Noble became chairman of the Community Committee with the following on the Executive Board: Mrs. Nell Henderson, vice-chairman; Mrs. Dewey Montgomery, secretary and treasurer; Mrs. Harry Rodgers, badges and awards; Mrs. A. W. Froelich, training and personnel chairman; Mrs. Nell Henderson, camp chairman; there were fourteen working on the committee at this time.

A Leader's Association was formed in this year in order to establish and maintain a closer relationship between the sponsoring group and the ever increasing number of leaders. New troops were organized in the following institutions: Washington, Franklin, Jefferson, and Normal Public Schools, Normal Presbyterian Church and a second group at the Illinois Soldiers and Sailors Children's School. There were now 103 registered Scouts.

A training course was held in this year for leaders and Community Committee women by Miss Dorothea Sullivan of the National Staff. A camp was conducted under the Girl Scout leadership and followed a reorganized Girl Scout program. A card party again financed the year's projects.

In February, 1934, Mrs. A. W. Froelich became chairman with twenty-four assisting women, among them Mrs. Nell Henderson, vice-chairman; Mrs. Dewey Montgomery, secretary and treasurer; Mrs. Wm. Schausten, training

and personnel; Mrs. Eldo Moore, badges and awards; Mrs. Herbert Moore, camp; Mrs. George Childs, finance; Mrs. Virgil Martin, publicity. This year an annual meeting open to the public was held for the first time.

Additional training was afforded the leaders when Mrs. R. W. Swindell conducted a five day course in May in connection with classes at Illinois Wesleyan. The Community Committee women were given a one day training course at a later date.

A city wide cookie sale in May of this year netted the Committee the first appreciable funds for furthering Scouting. From these funds the committee was able to send a leader to the National training school, from which she returned to direct our camp. Following visits from regional and national inspectors, our camp and its program were certificated by the National Camping Committee, one of the four in the State to be so honored.

The leaders through their efforts financed one of their number to this same training course. Through the action of the National Convention in October, the sponsoring body known as the Community Committee was changed to that of Local Council and as such the local group was incorporated.

A new troop was organized at Edwards School and additional ones at Washington and Normal Public, making 12 troops and 225 Scouts.

In February, 1935, Mrs. A. W. Froelich was re-elected as Commissioner of the Local Council which is known as the Bloomington-Normal Council of Girl Scouts, Inc. There were now twenty eight members on the Council with the Executive Board as follows: Mrs. C. F. Malmberg, first deputy commissioner; Mrs. William Schausten, second deputy commissioner; Miss Ruth Maybauer, secretary, Mrs. George Childs, treasurer, Mrs. Howard Ivens, badges and awards; Mrs. William Schausten, training and personnel; Mrs. L. B. Jackson, camp; Miss Dorothy Rhodes, publicity; and Mrs. Erwin Albee, finance.

Miss Alice Mulkey of the National Field Staff was the speaker at the annual meeting in February and also gave a short training course for Council members. At the anniversary party in March, Mrs. Swindell returned as our guest speaker. The first financial campaign of the Council was held in May, 1935. A most successful camp was held in August, 1935, with 112 girls in attendance.

On September 19, 1935, Miss Loine Hanes came to Bloomington to become the first professional Director of Girl Scout work. Headquarters were established on the second floor of the Carlton building, 526 North Main Street. The rooms were formally opened September 23 and the first Open House was held there on November 1. Since October 1, Miss Eleanor Moninger has been on duty as Miss Hanes' assistant.

At this time there were 14 Girl Scout troops in the Bloomington-Normal Council. A Mariner ship was launched for girls over fifteen years of age who were interested in this program, and also a Citizen or Senior Girl Scout troop had been opened to college girls of Normal and Wesleyan. The latter had about 24 girls who were interested in Scouting or who had been Scouts and wished to keep up their work.

The purpose of this organization is to help girls to realize the ideals of womanhood, as a preparation for responsibilities in the home

and service to the community.

The program of the Girl Scout movement shall emphasize the out-of-door life and be planned to give girls a practical knowledge of health, home-making, first aid work, and handcraft. The activities shall aim through comradeship to develop iniative, self-control, self-reliance and unselfish service to others.

The Girl Scout movement is non-sectarian and non-political. Its units willingly cooperate with educational and other groups whose ideals and procedures are in accord with their own.

Beginning of Camp Myra S. Peairs

A called meeting of the Girl Scout Council was held July 18, 1938, at the Girl Scout office, located at the Carlton building, 526½ North Main Street, Bloomington, Illinois. At this time it was moved and seconded that the Council take steps to secure land at Lake Bloomington for a Girl Scout Camp. The group was unaminously in favor of such a procedure. Mrs. C. F. Malmberg, commissioner and Mrs. Lyle Straight, recording secretary. The following Camp Committee was appointed: Mrs. Chester Scanlan and Mrs. W. Hovey, joint chairmen; Mrs. F. S. Stillman, Mrs. Edgar Lebkuecher, Mrs. Lowell Kraft, Mrs. Lyle Straight, Mrs. Eldo Moore, Mrs. LeRoy Yolton, and Mrs. H. O. Lathrop.

A letter was sent to Mayor B. Hayes and to the Bloomington City Council asking them to grant the Girl Scouts a lease on land at Lake Bloomington to be used as a Girl Scout Camp.

Each member of the Council and the Lake Board was visited and asked to vote in favor of our request. It was passed by the Council without objection. The project was then given over to the Lake Board. Mr. Mark Ethel was very much in favor and worked with us in choosing a location. He also helped in many ways for which the chairmen were very grateful.

In October we were informed that we could have 5-3/4 acres, known as Baker's point at Lake Bloomington. The natural beach and the view from the point were merits in its favor.

The National Girl Scout office and the Regional Girl Scout office were asked to send representatives to come and inspect the site and bring plans for its development.

In January we were told our request had been passed upon by the Lake Board and we were given the lease for the present Camp site.

In March, 1940, Mrs. Scanlon reported on plans for a special gift campaign. The gifts to be used in the construction of camp cottages. She also reported that the American Legion was planning a money raising project. The proceeds of which were to be used for a Lodge on the Camp site. The Council members were given pledge cards to start the good work. The Dad's patrol was asked to help.

In April plans were made by the American Legion for an Old Mexico Festival to be held June 3 to June 8 at Williams Oil-O-Matic Field. This festival to raise $2500 for the Girl Scout Lodge. The sum of money was raised.

A gift of $1000 was promised by Dr. Ralph Peairs provided the Lodge be built during that summer. At this time there was $1100 in our Camp Fund. In June Dr. Peairs' gift was accepted.

Gridley Girl Scouts donated $25, Mackinaw Girl Scouts donated $25, Washburn Girl Scouts donated $25, and also Carlock Girl Scouts donated $25 for furnishings.

At an executive committee meeting, June 13th, bids for the Girl Scout Lodge were read. Mr. Mason Cupp of Hudson, Illinois, presented a bid of $3380. It was accepted.

Day Camp was held at the camp site during the summer. Trips were made in special busses.

The American Legion Auxiliary gave $200 for the first cabin. It was built at the same time as the lodge. The Women's Club gave the money for the second cabin.

Mrs. F. S. Stillman, commissioner, appointed in September, 1940, the following dedication committee for the new lodge at Camp Myra S. Peairs. Mr. William Hammitt, chairman; Mrs. Frank Hanson, Miss Clara Kepner, Mrs. E. H. King, Miss Dorothea Coleman and Mrs. Lyle Straight. Others who assisted were Mrs. H. O. Lathrop, Mrs. F. S. Stillman and Miss Helen Wilson, executive secretary.

The following people assisted in the camp building program at Camp Myra S. Peairs through their untiring efforts: Mr. Chester Scanlon, chairman, Roy Barr, Charles Hamilton, Mark Ethel, David Davis, James Parker, D. I. Melick, F. S. Stillman, Mrs. Chester Scanlon, chairman, Mrs. A. C. Baker, Mrs. Phil Bolinger, Miss Winifred Bally, Mrs. Charles Bender, Mr. W. Hammitt, Mrs. Frank Hanson, Mrs. Wilmoth Hovey, Mrs. E. R. Johnson, Mrs. E. H. King, Mrs. Frank Kirwin, Mrs. C. F. Malmberg, Mrs. Owen Morris, Mrs. J. H. Parsons, and Mrs. Gustave Stamm.

The dedication program was held October 27, 1940, at 3:00 P.M. at the camp site. Opening prayer was led by Father Richard Raney. Presentation ceremonies were in charge of Mayor Mark B. Hayes, Harry Dick of the Louis E. Davis Post of the American Legion, also Oscar G. Hoose and Mrs. Howard Bower of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Mrs. E. A. Turner gave a very inspiring memorial to Mrs. Myra S. Peairs, for whom the camp was named. The following Senior Girl Scouts participated in the program, Evelyn Brooks, Patricia Ladd and Betty Irvin. Reverend Chester Grubb gave the closing prayer.

Our Girl Scout lodge is the exemplification of good will, of service rendered and of service yet to be.

Started under the leadership of our executive, Miss Marjorie Meyers and her assistant, Miss Ann Olson, our professional staff, and completed under the leadership of our new executive, Miss Helen Wilson and her assistant, Miss Marian Bunn.

A glorious sunrise---
A flag fluttering in the breeze---
Clear young voices joining in the pledge of allegiance---
Delicious meals served on the porch.

A splash in the lake---
An interesting insect to identify---
A hike in the woods---
A campfire glowing in the dark---
Stories and songs---
A bed under the stars---
Yes, that is Camp Peairs.

---Clara Kepner

Building of Hike Haven

One of the most important lessons taught in Scouting is that girls learn how to camp, to be good campers, to provide for themselves in the out-of-doors, to learn more about nature, to build good fires, learn different kinds of wood, what to choose and what burns the best and longest, and how to prepare meals out-of-doors. This was the main reason for the need of Hike Haven.

Hike Haven is a brick building located in the northern part of Forest Park. The ground on which it is built is city property, reverting back to the city at any time the Girl Scouts feel no further need for this ground.

This building came about when it seemed imperative to have a place to house the equipment used at day camp and a place for girls to go if the weather was unfit for them to be out-of-doors.

Forest Park is a beautiful little park offering Girl Scouts the possibilities of exploring, hiking, cooking-out and receiving the blessings of the out-of-doors and still be within hiking distances of their homes. It also gives our little Brownies this opportunity to prepare themselves in camping knowledge before they go out to Camp Peairs at Lake Bloomington.

Because Mayor Mark Hayes and his city council were in sympathy with this Girl Scout need, they voted to give us 30,000 old paving bricks that were piled in the east side of the park.

By May, 1947, the Girl Scouts had raised $2800 by collecting grease, waste paper and holding cookie sales. This was our nest egg to start building. Our next step was to have it built, so after talking to the presidents of all the trade unions as to the possibilities of building, it was agreed that a meeting be called to take a vote. Our first meeting was a dinner held at the home of Mrs. A. P. Kaye, 1005 East Jefferson Street. The dinner was served by Girl Scout leaders to 20 Bloomington and Normal craftsmen and business men. The dinner was served camp fashion, the prayer sung by the cooks who also provided singing between the dinner and the business meeting.

The meeting was called to order by the building chairman, Mrs. A. P. Kaye. She gave a short talk on the needs of the building and what its purpose would be in Scouting and in our community. Then, Mr. Charles Bates, contractor, presented blue prints drawn by Lundeen & Hilfinger and plan of work to the different crafts. These were discussed and it was suggested that each man take the work plan back to his union and have them vote upon it. It was decided to meet again one month from then to bring our ideas

together for final plans. Attending this meeting were Mayor Mark B. Hayes, Stanley Wilhoit, city engineer, Jack Zinser, American Legion, A. E. McKern, bricklayer, Kenneth Pearl, Charles Hamilton and Lyle Dobbins, carpenters, R. A. Freedland and Oren Campbell, electricians, Don Fortner, plumber, Jean Becker, plasterer, Joseph McGovern, laborer, Joe Keen and W. W. Hite, roofers, Everett Carlton, Dad's patrol, George N. Wells, Superintendent of Schools Harry Marquardt, Art Kane, Joe Glass and Mr. Charles Bates, contractor.

Work on the Scout cabin began early Saturday morning, April 25, 1947. At 8 o'clock the first spade of dirt was dug and work for the foundation was begun. Joe Glass, with his loud speaking system and microphone, broadcasted our ceremony to the community. Mayor Mark B. Hayes presented the opening ceremony, Reverend Strouse, the prayer of dedication and some twenty or more workmen spoke over the radio about the part they would play in the construction of this building. Mrs. George N. Wells, President of Bloomington-Normal Girl Scout Council and Mrs. A. P. Kaye, building chairman, also took part in this program.

The cornerstone bearing the inscription, "Hike Haven" and presented by the Walsh Monument Company was laid, and a history of Scouting, pictures, and stories of the plans of building were placed in the copper box.

Two weeks of free camping was offered to the person submitting the most suitable name for a Girl Scout building. Hike Haven was submitted by Miss Mae Kohler, 1124 East Olive Street. The name selected suggesting a "Haven" for girls within "Hiking" distances. Miss Kohler asked Girl Scout officials to select a girl to receive the prize.

All plans were completed and a schedule set for a two day work program to erect the main walls of the building. The John Felmley Company furnished trucking and building materials.

These days were the first blistering hot days in June, 29 and 30th, 1947. At the end of the second day, the walls were ready for the roof. Then the carpenters, plumbers, electricians and the city workmen each took their places and completed their work. Of course, we had the usual rainy weather, the failure of some plans, but the overall picture begin to shape up and take the form of a brick building 30' x 40' nestled at the foot of the hill. The wide front doors opened to the view of the wooded area of the park and the east side door opened on a 20' x 30' stone terrace for out-of-door programs and to the path leading to the top of the hill where stands the majestic flag pole with its flag given to us by the D.A.R. and dedicated on July 15, 1947.

The interior of Hike Haven is lined with pine with two big fireplaces, one at each end of the building, a storage room, a kitchen with a double sink, cupboards, an electric ice box, small electric stove, and camp dishes, silver and other camping equipment. Also a room with two toilets and two lavatories. The wagon wheel light fixtures donated by Mary Bell supplies the light for the cabin. The painters finished the walls in natural wax. The windows and doors were painted a rich brown. Rustic furnishings were provided and long collapsible tables were purchased with benches made to fit the sides.

Although we had planned to finish the building gradually, money was donated, craftsmen supplied materials and during the summer the building was well on its way to completion.

Day camp was held on schedule during the summer with Mrs. Floyd Holderby as camp director and MissMary Kraft as day camp chairman.

A formal dedication of Hike Haven was held in November, 1948. At that time the bronze plaque was placed above the fireplace, bearing the inscription, "Hike Haven, built for the Girl Scouts of Bloomington-Normal by their friends through the untiring efforts and inspirational leadership of "Peg Kaye". Mrs. George N. Wells, president of the Bloomington-Normal Girl Scouts presided at the dedication. Open house was held following the ceremonies.

—Mrs. A. P. Kaye

Present Day Scouting

While Hike Haven was being built, Camp Myra S. Peairs was expanded so that at present there are three units accommodating 49 campers. The expansion program was carried out under the leadership of Mrs. A. G. Orendorff, camp chairman, Dr. A. G. Orendorff and J. J. Suter, chairmen of the camp building fund and Everett Carlton, Dads' Patrol chairman.

In the summer of 1949, the camp was operated for seven weeks and 271 girls attended. In the spring and fall troops use the camp for troop camping.

During the period that Camp Peairs was expanded and Hike Haven was built Mrs. George N. Wells served as president of the Girl Scout Council. It was during her term that the office was moved from the old telephone building on North Main to the Holder building, 102 West Front. While she was in office the organization continued to grow so that at the beginning of 1950 there were 1056 Girl Scouts in 68 troops and 350 registered volunteer workers.

The present executive director, Geraldine Stewart, came in the fall of 1947. Mrs. Floyd Holderby serves as council assistant and Miss Frances Mischler is office secretary.

At the annual meeting on January 9, 1950, Mrs. Wells retired as president and was presented with a gold Girl Scout pin. Also retiring from the board of directors were Mrs. Charles Bender, treasurer, Mrs. John Ryan, and Mrs. A. G. Orendorff. Mrs. A. P. Kaye was elected president for two years. Serving with her is Mrs. Herbert Livingston, vice-president, Mrs. Cyril Burns, secretary, Mrs. Ralph Anderson, treasurer, Mrs. Harry Brewer, Miss Mary Kraft, Mrs. Charles Weaver, Mrs. William Shollenbarger, Mrs. James Keeran, Mrs. Chester Kinne, Mrs. William Bennington, Mrs. Willis J. MaGirl, Mrs. George N. Wells, Mrs. R. W. Gipson, Mrs. John Felmley, Dr. A. G. Orendorff, Mrs. J. H. Parsons and Mrs. John Reusser.

THE MCLEAN COUNTY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

by

FLORENCE FIFER BOHRER

THE MCLEAN COUNTY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

By Florence Fifer Bohrer

"The purpose of the League of Women Voters of the United States shall be to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government."

At the time the McLean County League of Women Voters was organized, these words were not a part of the National By-Laws as they are now, but the purpose was the same nevertheless, and the interested group of women who organized had been members of the Florence Fifer Bohrer club whose aim was to learn more about legislation and what women could do to improve government. They were enthusiastic about the League program and the principles on which it was founded, so on November 24, 1933, in the lobby of the Hotel Rogers, the McLean County League of Women Voters was formed. The first minutes of the organization meeting read as follows:

"Mrs. C. M. Forsyth, temporary chairman, presided during the election of officers. Mrs. O. D. Travis, chairman of the nominating committee, which also included Mrs. C. W. Chambers and Dr. Bernice McConnell of Leroy."

"Mrs. Florence Fifer Bohrer was elected president of the new organization with other officers as follows: 1st. vice-president, Miss Ruth Heffernan; 2nd. vice-president, Mrs.

Hazle Buck Ewing; recording secretary, Mrs. O. E. Forister; corresponding secretary, Mrs. J. M. Murphy; and treasurer, Mrs. Chalmer B. Arnold. The board members include Mrs. Will Chapman of Chenoa, Mrs. Joe Iden of LeRoy, Mrs. Guy McCurdy, Mrs. Fred Capen and Mrs. Katherine L. H. Killian of Bloomington and Mrs. Fred Schultz of Stanford."

Mrs. John Hewitt Rosenstiel of Freeport, director on the National Board and past state president of Illinois came to speak. After that, Mrs. Travis and Mrs. Killian gave a sparkling skit which presented answers to many questions about the League of Women Voters.

At that time there were three general departments of work to be carried on in the League, so the following chairmen were appointed: Public Welfare, Mrs. Louis Hildebrandt; International Relations, Mrs. O. D. Travis; Efficiency in Government, Mrs. Phil Wood. The committee chairmen were: Finance, Mrs. Julius Griesheim; Program, Mrs. Harry R. Dodge, and Publicity, Mrs. Lyle Mason.

Mrs. Frank P. Hixon of Lake Forest, Illinois was the state president in 1933. She, with Mrs. Rittenhouse and others from the state board came often to lend their aid and advice to the new McLean County League.

It was agreed the future sessions of the League would be held on the fourth Thursday afternoons of each month at the Hotel Rogers. This date was afterwards changed to the third Tuesday. Our membership total for the first year was 82, and the first membership chairman for the League was Mrs. Alice Fulwiler of Bloomington.

The League, a non-partisan organization, never supports political parties or candidates but supports or opposes issues on the local, state or national level. Helping to keep the voters informed on candidates running for public office is part of the League's job and candidate's meetings proved of great value.

The first candidates meeting of the McLean County League of Women Voters was held at the March 1934 session. Candidates for Congress and the Illinois legislature were called on to speak briefly. The candidates for other offices were introduced. It was said to be the first of such gatherings ever held in the county and became a regular part of the League's program in the years to come.

Mrs. Eugene Funk was elected president in 1935. Other presidents of the McLean County League of Women Voters following her were: Mrs. O. E. Forrister, Mrs. Homer Johnson, Mrs. Paul Gossard, Mrs. R. W. Gipson, Mrs. S. C. Ratcliffe, Mrs. Wm. Hammitt, and Mrs. H. C. Tate. The last named, Mrs. Tate, is our present 1950 League president.

The League, working on the National level, has supported the Food and Drug Act, Social Security Act of '35, Entrance of the U.S. into the World Court, disarmament conferences, reciprocal trade pacts, "Lend Lease", the Atlantic Charter, Federal Aid to Education, and supported the United Nationa in full force

On the state level, the League is responsible for permanent registration laws of the state, Aid to Dependent Children and revision of the Adoption.Law. It was of substantial help in passage of the School Re-Organization Act, put much emphasis

Constitutional Convention and was partly responsible for the success of the County Health Department. The McLean County League conducted a successful campaign to give the County Health Department power to control and regulate sanitation of restaurants in the County.

Locally, the public candidate meetings are given, citizenship schools, public information about candidates and records and Register To Vote campaigns. Housing surveys, public tax information meetings, child labor surveys, studies of city government culminating in Town Meetings, all in the public interest. At all times, the League has been interested in modernizing the framework of government to make it more effective, and its constant aim is "the success of democracy".

The early meetings of the League were all held at the Hotel Rogers, but were later changed to the Y.W.C.A., where "Dutch Treat" luncheons were held preceeding each meeting and, finally, for the last few years, they have been held at the Wither's Public library in the Art Gallery. Board meetings are held the 1st. Tuesday of each month in the staff room on the first floor of the library. Mrs. Frank Breen and her library staff have been very co-operative and helpful in obtaining League study material and providing shelf space to display League reading.

Study classes on all program items have been held during the year with extra or special meetings called whenever members were called upon to act on specific items, whether federal, state or local.

For several years the League had regular weekly radio programs. In later years the programs have been occasional.

Many times, the League is called upon to participate in public interest programs with other organizations.

The Daily Pantagraph has been generous with its publicity both with its news items and particularly in its editorial column, giving approval of the work of the organization.

Discussion groups, a new program method, has been recently adopted and in place of a program meeting each month, these have been held at short intervals. These discussion meetings are held simultaneously in the homes of members in several parts of town, each considering the same subject. At each meeting there is a leader to conduct and a resource member, well posted on the subject under consideration, to preside. Front porch meetings are informal, informative and very popular.

The League has been fortunate to have had frequent speakers from the state board such as the following leaders: Mrs. Frank Hixon, Mrs. Geo. Bogart, Mrs. W. W. Ramsey, Mrs. Wm. Spencer, Mrs. Anna Ludlow, Mrs. Walter Fisher, Mrs. Maurice Pollak, Mrs. Marc Law, Mrs. Leston Nay, Mrs. Clifton Utley and many others.

During the state convention held in Bloomington in 1941, the National Vice President, Mrs. Harris T. Baldwin of Washington, D. C. was speaker for the closing luncheon. The state president, at that time, was Mrs. George Bogert, who was present, along with the state vice-presidents who were: Mrs. Clifton Utley, Mrs. Raymond Simons and Mrs. W. W. Ramsey. Mrs. Ramsey was a former national League vice-president. More than 200 delegates from 53 organized Leagues of the state were present at the two day convention, held at the Illinois Hotel. It was at this convention that I was named state president and took office

from 1941 until 1945, after having served on the national board and as past state vice-president.

The McLean County League has had representation on the state board since its inception and those who have served as board members are: Mrs. Eugene Funk, Mrs. Florence Fifer Bohrer, Mrs. Hortense Johnson, Mrs. John Sealock and Mrs. Carroll Cade.

Members of the faculties of both Illinois State Normal University and Illinois Wesleyan University have been of great assistance to the McLean County League. The League is particularly indebted to Dr. Richard Browne of Normal University and to Dr. Wm. Beadles of Illinois Wesleyan who have conducted so many classes and lectures for our organization.

Each University has its own student League. Their meetings are conducted separately from the McLean County League and they have their own college charters. They are always invited to attend the McLean County League meetings and send representatives to our annual meetings and luncheons, as we sometimes do theirs. They have cooperated with the County League on many local projects and contributed much to their success.

The League of Women Voters of McLean County is presently engaged in promoting interest in the passage of the Gateway Amendment next November. Since all former amendments to the outdated constitution have failed because of the necessity for a majority vote of all voters, it is hoped that the "Gateway" which requires only a two thirds vote of those voting on that particular amendment, will pass, thus making it easier to get future amendments through.

And so the League continues to promote political responsibility by:

(1) providing information

(2) building public opinion

(3) supporting legislation

THE MCBARNES MEMORIAL BUILDING

by

Inez Bunn

THE MCBARNES MEMORIAL BUILDING

By

Inez Dunn

The McBarnes Memorial building was created to the memory of Soldiers and Sailors of all the wars. It is located at the corner of Grove and East streets and is the product of generosity of Mr. and Mrs. John McBarnes, who lived on their farm of more than nine hundred acres near, Holder, Illinois.

The people of McLean County voted to erect a suitable building as a memorial to those who had made the great sacrifice but no provision was made for further taxing powers to provide funds for such an undertaking. It was again submitted to a vote of the people of the county and was defeated, however the board of supervisors had contracted for a location for the proposed building before the last county vote was taken. The site being only six blocks from the public square was considered an ideal location, also the historical

interests which held this spot was another reason it seemed to be an ideal location. It was here that James Allin built the first house ever erected in the region that later became the city of Bloomington, Illinois. It was in this house, built by Mr. Allin, that the pioneers came together to discuss legal problems, in fact it may be termed the first court house, commonly known as the Stipp house.

Those who most desired to build a memorial were about to give up in dispair when Mr. John McBarnes made a proposition in which he agreed to donate dollar for dollar to a fund for the erection of a Memorial Building. This was not accepted because there were no funds. Mr. McBarnes then agreed to pay the sum of $125,000 for the erection of the building providing the supervisors would provide a suitable site.

The County Board made the final plans for procuring the Stipp lot and the contract for the erection of the building was signed on September 24, 1921. However it was necessary to add several thousand dollars more before the completion of the building which was given the deserved title of the McBarnes Memorial Building.

It is an imposing structure, three stories high, one hundred feet wide and eighty feet deep, built of grey pressed brick, trimmed with Bedford stone. Aside from the rooms used by the patriotic organizations, the McLean County Historical Society occupies a large room on the first floor by reason of the contract entered into with Mr. McBarnes and the American Legion, containing a clause which states that suit-

A board of management composed of one member of each patriotic organization, occupying quarters there, one member from the board of supervisors and one member of the McLean County Historical society conduct the affairs and control the functions.

THE McLEAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

by

W. B. Carlock

Newspaper Clipping of August 31, 1918

THE MCLEAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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In view of the coming Illinois Centennial observance to be staged by the McLean County Historical Society, some history of that organization will be of timely interest.

The McLean County Historical Society was organized March 12, 1892; was incorporated December 28, 1899, and was reorganized March 6, 1915. All its charter members are dead except William McCambridge, of Washington, D. C., and Mrs. Sue A. Sanders of this city. The leading organizers of the society were Ezra M. Prince, Capt. J.H. Burnham, George P. Davis, Judge John M. Scott and John Berry Orendorff, all deceased. On the membership roll prior to its reorganization, about seventy-five members survive. Since the date of its reorganization the increase in membership has been very rapid and the present roll

shows the names of about 1,250 prominent citizens of McLean county, which includes a respectable number from adjoining counties. These embrace the lovers of historical research and the mysteries and beauties of past history. Of a large number of life members all are dead except Hon. Lafayette Funk, Hon. Simeon West, Col. D. C. Smith, John F. Humphreys, Mrs. Martha Hedrick, Miss Mary Richardson and W. B. Carlock.

Our museum is the largest and best selected in the state outside of Chicago. On its walls are excellent artistic paintings and portraits of pioneer settlers and other prominent people of our county; also a beautiful selection of porcelain pictures of many of our early well known people, the larger part of whom are dead. On its shelves and in its book cases are many choice books, a collection of magazines and maps and local newspaper files;--all of rare worth and of especial interest.

In its show cases are to be seen a rare and valuable collection of Indian relics and curios of various descriptions; also several antique articles of husbandry, all of which are wonderfully interesting. There are other articles most unique and mysterious.

Our publications are most valuable and are much in demand by those who love to dwell upon the story of McLean county and its wonderful development. The first volume pertains to the educational, church work, agricultural and diversified enterprises of our county. The second is our civil war record. The third and last volume published is a complete and thrilling account of the emeorable convention held at major's hall in this city, May 29, 1856, giving rise to the formation of the Republican party, and within its covers are several portraits

of noted men of national repute, who, gathered there to mark the beginning of the downfall of slavery in the United States, including that of Abraham Lincoln, as he appeared in the delivery of his "Famous Lost Speech," often commented upon by historians and politicians. There are not many of these volumes left and many of our history-loving people will regret the failure to secure this highly interesting library addition.

The financial outlook of the society is most flattering.

The centennial of our statehood will be fittingly celebrated by a well arranged program on Saturday, the 14th day of September, A. D. 1918, and Ex-Gov. Yates is to be the principal speaker. Much enthusiasm is being manifested in this important event in our state and county history, and short talks are expected to be made by local speakers and musical selections of the highest order will be interspersed.

The McLean County Historical Society is perhaps the most noted and influential organization in the state. It stands upon a solid foundation. The visitors to its museum and library rooms are estimated by the thousands yearly.

The society has no branch organizations, is entirely independent and reports to the contrary are erroneous and false. It moves along in the even tenor of its way and is fast gaining deserved popularity.

Some publications from the secretary's office may be of interest to our members and of other people in this county which will appear at proper intervals for the better enlightenment of the public and the safeguarding the welfare of the society.

The writer as treasurer of the society has full knowledge of the accuracy of its history as herein set forth and we bespeak a most glorious future for the growing, far-reaching and largely appreciated McLean County Historical society.

HISTORICAL MUSEUM

(McLean County Historical Society.)

This room most imposing lesson conveys,
For those surfeited with things to enjoy;
It transports them swiftly to early days,
Of pioneers here in mid-Illinois,
Who from the gilded picture frames look down,
Resolute men, hardy, grizzled and grim;
Who broke the prairie sod, laid out the town;
And their patient helpmeets, matronly, prim.

Here are preserved quaint tools of husbandry;
And looms once busy under fingers skilled;
Stone relics of redman's priority;
Old weapons, bulky books with history filled;
Silk badges of bygone Cleveland campaign,
And torn war flags, precious to old McLean.

James Hart

SCOTTISH RITE MASONRY

by

P.C. SOMERVILLE

SCOTTISH RITE MASONRY

Scottish Rite Masonry in Bloomington and in the area ajoining, in reality, had its inception by Delmar Duane Darrah, who died March 5, 1945. Mr. Darrah is commonly known as the father of the Scottish Rite in this division of the state of Illinois. Early in life he became much interested in Masonry and as soon as possible lent himself to the furthering and advancement of the Scottish Rite. In short, it may be said that in trying to give a history of the growth of this division of Masonry in this part of Illinois it cannot be done without giving a good deal of attention to this man who was so instrumental in its growth in this locality.

The degrees of the Rite were conferred upon Mr. Darrah by the Bodies at Peoria on April 20, 21 and 22, 1891. He demited therefrom to become a charter member of the several Bodies of the Rite, organized in Bloomington under his leadership, serving each of them as its Presiding Officer.

The Bloomington Lodge of Perfection, the first Body of the Rite, was chartered on the 19th day of December 1907. Many members of the Peoria Bodies lived here in Bloomington and they withdrew from Peoria to become local charter members. Mr. Darrah was the first Thrice Potent Master serving until August 27, 1909 when he was succeeded by William Robert Bach, who served for a period as Thrice Potent Master for two years.

On July 19, 1909 the Supreme Council, whose headquarters are in Boston, granted a charter to the next higher Body in the Rite and here in Bloomington it was called Zerubbabel Council, Princes of Jerusalem. The records show that Austin Holmes Scrogin served as its first Sovereign Prince, his tenure of office being from the 2nd day of August 1909 to May 24, 1912.

At the same time and upon the same date the Supreme Council granted a charter to the next higher Body, locally known as Mount Calvary Chapter of Rose Croix. We find that the first Presiding Officer of this Body was Delmar Duane Darrah, who served as Most Wise Master from August 3, 1909 to May 24, 1912.

During these early years of the local organization many Masons were initiated into it and it was necessary for them to go to Peoria to have the degrees in the Consistory conferred upon them in order that they might be, as one would term, full fledged Scottish Rite Masons.

On August 5, 1912 a fourth charter was granted by the Supreme Council to what is commonly known as Bloomington Consistory. By searching the records it is discovered that the same Delmar Duane Darrah was the first Commander-in-Chief of Bloomington Consistory, his term of office running from August 6, 1912 to December 11, 1915.

Since, in the chartering of these Bodies, this same Mr. Darrah was the first Presiding Officer in three of them, the question might arise as to whether or not he was the Presiding Officer in the other one of the four Bodies, namely, Zerubbabel Council. In answer to that query it may be said that he was the Sovereign Prince, which is the Presiding Officer from May 25, 1923 until the first Tuesday in May 1938. Still alluding to this man, Mr. Darrah, it may be said that with the close of his office as Commander-in-Chief in December 1915 he became Secretary of the four Scottish Rite Bodies and remained as such until May 1922.

For many years the Scottish Rite Bodies of Bloomington were the youngest in the state of Illinois and under the industrious leadership that was always

prevalent they thrived and grew in the field of Masonry. It is quite possible there are more Scottish Rite Masons in the city of Bloomington per each 1,000 Masons than in any other city in the state of Illinois.

With the organization of the Rite in its first years, it held its meetings in the Masonic Temple on East Jefferson Street and was one of the holding Bodies of that Temple. During the time of World War No. 1, when all fraternal activity was at a boiling point it seemed that there was a necessity for another Masonic Lodge in Bloomington and in connection with that thought another one was chartered, which in due course of time bought the holding interest of the Scottish Rite Bodies.

It was then that this great organization began to plan for its new home, which eventually lead to the construction of the great Temple at 110 East Mulberry Street, the Temple facing south down through the middle of East Street. In the main it may be said that this has been the home of the Scottish Rite Bodies of the Valley of Bloomington for a period of practically thirty years.

The new Temple was built amid trying circumstances, but in due course of time it arose above all the trials and troubles and stands as a monument today for Scottish Rite Masonry not only in Bloomington and in Illinois, but for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

In those years of building, let's say from 1919 to practically November 1921 the Board of Trustees had many problems to weigh and consider.

From memory it may be said that on the Board there were John William Birney, Commander-in-Chief, P. C. Somerville, Most Wise Master, Frank R. Berg, Sovereign Prince and Thrice Potent Master, Delmar D. Darrah, Secretary, Charles Moyer, Treasurer and Alonzo Dolan.

The first Convocation, which purpose was for the initiating of candidates was held in the Temple on November 28, 29, 30, 1921, and there was an exceedingly large number in the class. From that time until the financial crisis which had its culmination in the closing of the banks on March 5, 1933, the local Rite flourished exceedingly well. Large classes were the general experience and the membership grew rather rapidly. The largest membership was in 1925 when it stood at 4,245. A net loss did not begin to ensue until 1926. By that time the age of brethren over-took some of the members and the death loss began to increase.

On September 1, 1922 there was the largest amount of indebtedness upon the Temple and at that time it stood at $311,466.98. From that time on, in spite of the depression around 1930, and a little later, a gradual reduction of indebtedness began and in 1946 it was totally wipped out. With that year for the first time there was no indebtedness carried by the Scottish Rite Bodies of the Valley of Bloomington.

During the years of the forties there was a gradual climbing in the number of members until at the moment this history is being written, namely September 1, 1950, the membership stands at 3335.

There is no reason for any member of the Rite to be ashamed of any of the past history. The growth has been steady, the decrease on indebtedness was gradual and the work, as it is commonly called, of the Bloomington

Consistory has been most highly acceptable by the Deputy for Illinois and the Supreme Council of the Northern Jurisdiction.

In looking over the honored names of those who have passed on, in addition to the ones that have been mentioned, attention needs to be called to Dr. Harry Lee Howell, John William Probasco, Frank Christ Fisher, Lester Henry Martin, Ruben Gentry Bright, William Nathaniel Ewing, Arthur John Graves, Lathaddius Monroe Crosthwait, Henry Stanbery, Walter Havens Trimmer, William Blake Leach, all of whom have been called to that Celestrial Lodge on High.

Holding in mind that "honor to whom honor is due" and that the faithful laborer deserves his reward, it is perfectly natural to look at the list of membership of the Scottish Rite Bodies of the Valley of Bloomington and read the large number who have been honored by the Supreme Council in having the thirty third and last degree conferred upon them. First of all at the head of the list stands Delmar Duane Darrah, who was an active member of the Supreme Council for several years and who was Deputy for Illinois at the time of his death. In addition to him the list shows that fifty seven members have thus been honored, which is a large number indeed for Scottish Rite Bodies with no greater age than this Body here in Bloomington and with a membership no greater than it carries today.

As this is the Centennial year for Bloomington let it be recorded on this 8th day of September 1950 that the Presiding Officers of the four Bodies are: Consistory, Walter J. Colton; Chapter, Harold D. Walters; Council, Forrest Watt; Lodge, James Parsons; Secretary, P. C. Somerville; Treasurer, C. R. McElheny. The other members of the Board of Trustees for the Scottish

Rite Bodies are: Fletcher B. Coleman, George Morrow Aaron Brooks, George J. Mecherle, George Heberling, Louis L. Williams and Charles R. Fletcher.

Reunion, or what is known as Convocation time is the big moment during a Scottish Rite year. It is the practice of the Scottish Rite Bodies of the Valley of Bloomington to have two Convocations each calendar year, one in March and the other in November. At such times the Temple is generally crowded and as a usual thing at the banquet, that is held on the closing day, there will be seated in the dining room from 1,000 to 1,200 members. At this moment for future history it is thus being recorded that Bishop Hiram Abiff Boaz, Dallas, Texas has been secured as guest speaker at the Reunion banquet, which will be held on November 17, 1950.

THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

by

HARRY C. MELBY

THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

BY HARRY MELBY

In the year 1873, when the Y.M.C.A. had been re-established in Bloomington for a few months the Annual State Convention was held here. The records of the McLean County Historical Society contain the minutes of the meetings. Listed among the subjects discussed was one on the "Observance of the Lord's Day" and a resolution was introduced asking that trains and other public conveyances be prohibited from operating on Sundays. Whether right or wrong that is not one of the problems discussed today in meetings of the Y.M.C.A. This item is mentioned to show that the program of the Y.M.C.A. has been a changing one trying to keep abreast of the times especially regarding the problems of boys and young men.

In 1951 the Y.M.C.A. of the United States will celebrate its centenary. The first association was organized in Boston in 1851 and soon others sprang up all over the country. Records show that on February 5, 1855 an association was organized in Bloomington. With the coming of the Civil War period this association and many others closed.

Oncoming of the Civil War period is explanation for the early lapse of this new organization since the resources of the community in money and manpower were strained to carry on the war. But

the virtually unbroken history of the organization dates from September, 1873, to the present. In that 67 years the names of the men who have organized, promoted and enlarged the field of its work are all preserved. In 1923, the "Y" commemorated its 50th anniversary, that year being the half century mark from the recorded resurrection in 1873. The meeting at which the "permanent" Y.M.C.A. got going was held at the First Methodist church. The first roster of officers included: President, W. H. Winegardner; vice president, F. L. Smith; secretary, Warner Smeck; corresponding secretary, C. B. Perrigo; treasurer, Carey Fitzwilliam.

First meetings were held in churches and religious evangelism was stressed. Services were held at the county jail and morning prayer meetings at the mission Sunday school. First rooms occupied by the association comprised an office, reading room, and Bible depository on Center street just south of the People's bank. In 1882 the Y.M.C.A. was incorporated and rooms were furnished over Wolgamot's store at 214 North Center street. Here the first hired general secretary, W. N. Fisher from Peoria, began his work. After six months he resigned and David Wolfe, Wesleyan student, succeeded him, he being followed by J. V. Read. Under leadership of the latter, the "Y" sponsored building of a mission Sunday school in Stevensonville.

In 1887 the association moved to 219 West Washington street, and next year to 414 North Main street, where the second and third floors were occupied. Here for the first time gymnasium equipment was put in. In 1896 another move was made, to 108 East Front, and in 1899 the rooms over present site of Niersteimer's were occupied. The big fire of 1900, which handicapped many supporters, caused talk of abandoning the association, but with the hiring of George S. Sutton as general secretary, new life was instilled. Then came the definite turn into a larger and more permanent organization. Under Mr. Sutton's leadership talk of a new $100,000 building of its own grew and gained backing. The campaign for funds to build this permanent Y.M.C.A. home was launched in June, 1906, and in one of the most remarkable efforts ever undertaken for a community

project, it went over the top. Col. D. C. Smith of Normal started the drive in high speed by promising a donation of $7,500. The E. M. Evans family pledged $5,000, and Miss Sarah Loehr another $5,000. The day before the deadline set for the campaign, the total pledges were $98,534. On the final day, so great was the assurance of success, that it was quickly decided to put on the final scene at the courthouse.

In the evening a crowd which packed Main street east of the square cheered each additional total that was announced on the blackboard and through a megaphone. Many moderate sized individual or group gifts ran the total up to $99,112, and then a gift of $1,000 from S. Noble King of Normal boosted the total above the $100,000 mark. A wild scene followed, according to newspaper accounts. The crowd threw hats in the air and staid business men acted like children in their enthusiasm. But reaching the $100,000 mark did not stop further contributions; by the time the noisy crowd dispersed the blackboard showed a total of over $108,000. Ringing of church bells all over town broadcast the news of the campaign victory.

The site chosen was at Washington and East streets. On the corner stood the two story brick building owned by The Daily Bulletin, and next door east the Cash Harlan residence, one of the city's landmarks. The cornerstone laying took place Sunday, Sept. 22, 1907. Charles W. Fairbanks, then vice president of the United States, was the guest orator. Former Vice President Adlai E. Stevenson acted as chairman. Vice President Fairbanks was introduced by John A. Sterling, representative in congress from this district. A crowd which filled the adjoining streets heard the address.

Officers at the time the cornerstone was laid were: H. O. Stone, president; W. H. Johnson, vice president; J. B. Brown, secretary; F. H. McIntosh, treasurer. Directors, T. J. Storey, B. M. Kuhn, Ira S. Whitmer, C. B. Hamilton, H. E. Rouse, Frank I. Miller, F. Y. Hamilton, W. D. Snow, J. A. Harrison, J. K. Stableton, Henry Keiser, John A. Beck, G. A. Washburn, Campbell Holton, L. M. Crosthwait, C. M. White and B. F. Harber. J. L. Schofield was general secretary, J. A. Kramien assistant, and Lloyd E. Eyer

physical director. The building committee consisted of Messrs. Holton, McIntosh, Whitmer, Beck, Crosthwait, Keiser, Stone and Kuhn. Ned E. Dolan is president this year.

General secretaries have been W. N. Fisher, David Wolfe, J. V. Read, F. C. Read, George Hushem, H. L. Murray, W. R. Mitchell, H. C. Wilson, C. E. Rowecliff, George S. Sutton, J. L. Scofield, A. B. Cowen, A. J. Luebbers, Harry R. Seamans, and Harry C. Melby, who came to Bloomington in March, 1927, after several years experience in South America.

During the last 20 years, special emphasis has been placed on work for boys and young men. Work in this line within the building and by service of Staff members to groups throughout the city has been enlarged and improved. Many boys starting in the youngest group have gone through the young men's division and now occupy positions of leadership in religious and welfare enterprises throughout the city. Facilities of the building are also made available to churches, young people's groups, lodges and other organizations, with staff members giving advice and assistance when desired.

In this day when half a dozen modern gymnasiums exist in Bloomington-Normal, it is hard to realize that after the Y.M.C.A. building was erected, the gym there was the only one in the two cities which was suited for major indoor sports, including basketball, which was just then beginning to flower.

For several years, high school and college tournaments were held in the "Y" gym, and more than once the Little 19 basketball championship was fought out on that floor. In spite of many new gyms in more recent years, the one at the "Y" serves countless teams of men and boys in many forms of athletics.

The Y.M.C.A. was a pioneer in adult education. Years ago classes were conducted in salesmanship, public speaking and accounting, but this work has been taken over by the public schools and extension courses by the Universities. An interesting development has been the use made of the Y.M.C.A. facilities by groups not directly connected with the Y.M.C.A. Such organizations as labor unions, industrial groups, various women's

organizations, scouts, 4H and F.F.A. clubs and many church clubs and classes have made use of rooms and other equipment. Certain religious sects even use the swimming pool for baptisms when immersion is required.

The Y.M.C.A. has always tried to meet the needs of people whenever possible and it is still trying to render such service today.

HARRY MELBY

Biography

Harry Melby is a native of Minnesota. He attended the University of Minnesota and Reed College in Portland, Oregon. He started his Y.M.C.A. work in Portland in 1911 where he remained for ten years and then travelled for the Y.M.C.A. State Committee of Ohio for two years. From 1922 to 1927 he was connected with the Foreign Service of the Y.M.C.A. in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and came to Bloomington after this work.

In 1911 he married Helen Fremont Geer, daughter of Doctor and Mrs. E. F. Geer of St. Paul. They have three children, John, Everett and Mary all of whom were born in Portland, Oregon. The children are graduates of Illinois Wesleyan University and the boys have done graduate work at the University of Chicago and Mary studied at the Hewitt School and worked for the Human Engineering Laboratory at Armour Institute.

John entered the State Department in 1937. In addition to three assignments in Washington, D. C. he has worked in Mexico, Venezuela, Russia and China.

Mary went with the U. S. Consulate in Sao Paulo, Brazil in 1941. In 1943 she married Walter John Le Var of Cleveland. Their home is in Brazil.

Everett went with the International Student Service in 1939 and worked in Geneva, Switzerland for five years after which he joined the State Department in Berne. He is now located in Athens, Greece.

HISTORY OF THE BLOOMINGTON Y W C A

by

MRS. CAMPBELL HOLTON, MRS. GEORGE WASHBURN
MRS. WILLIS BURKHOLDER

HISTORY

OF

THE BLOOMINGTON Y.W.C.A.

On April 26, 1908, Mr. James Shaw, a Bloomingtonian of Chautaqua renown, called a meeting of a group of Bloomington women at the First Presbyterian Church to help organize a Y.W.C.A. in Bloomington. A motion was made and carried that the Bloomington women form the Y.W.C.A., and they called for volunteers. It was decided that thirty members would be elected to form the Board of Directors. The first officers of the organization were: Mrs. W. J. Belchner, President; Mrs. T. J. Story, Vice-President, and Miss Elizabeth Shroer, Secretary. At the first meeting held at the First Presbyterian Church, Miss Harriet Broad, State Secretary of the Y.W.C.A., presided. She was one of the great instigators toward the furtherment of the organization.

The Membership Committee, made up of most of the ladies present at the April 26th meeting, met various times in May and elected the following committees: Finance Committee: Mrs. J. B. Lennon, Mrs. Dr. Mammen, Mrs. D. C. Smith, Mrs. Edgar Haefer, Mrs. J. O. Wilson. Room Committee: Mrs. C. C. Peirce and Mrs. J. A. Beck. Nominating Committee: Mrs. E. D. Harber and Mrs. W. K. Bracken. Organization Committee: Miss Ruth Gardner.

There were 1,068 charter members, and the amount of money pledged $2,751.00.

A room was procured in June at the Odd Fellows Hall for the temporary home of the Y.W.C.A.

At the meeting held June 16, 1908, thirty directors were elected: One year term: Mrs. H. J. Belchner, Mrs. Mary M. Boyd, Mrs. B. M. Bunnell, Mrs. Charles C. Peiree, Miss Elizabeth Shrock, Mrs. C. K. Stockwell, Miss Gertrude Hawk, Mrs. H. N. Pearce, Mrs. Robert Maxton, and Mrs. W. K. Bracken; two year term: Mrs. John A. Beck, Mrs. F. Y. Hamilton, Mrs. Gertrude Van Hook, Miss Ruth A. Gardner, Mrs. W. L. Sanders. Mrs. Charles Gerhart. Mrs. Frank Baker, Miss Minnie Moon, Mrs. B. P. Marsh and Mrs. Fannie P. Harber; three year terms: Mrs. D. C. Smith, Mrs. J. B. Lennon, Mrs. J. O. Wilson, Mrs. Campbell Holton, Mrs. Edgar Haefer, Mrs. Charles Chapin, Mrs. E. Mammen, Mrs. E. R. Morgan, Mrs. T. H. McIntosh and Mrs. Ora White.

Following this meeting, a reception was held. The Pantagraph, in a lengthy write-up about the meeting and reception stated, "There were shouts and cheers of enthusiasm and as much noise from clapping as gloved hands would permit.

At this meeting, it was moved and accepted to affiliate with the State and National Association. It was also decided that membership fee would be $1.00, sustaining membership fee $5.00 per year, and lifetime membership $100.

It is interesting to note that Mrs. Campbell Holton is still an active member of the board and has been House Chairman since the Association has been in the present building.

The first year that the Y.W.C.A. of Bloomington was organized, the State Convention was held in Bloomington from October 29th to November 1st, 1908. This was the house warming for the new home of the organization in the first floor of the B. S. Green Building. This location was secured in June, 1908.

A cafeteria was started the first year of the organization, the object being to furnish food at cost for the young girls of the city. Male patrons were permitted upon the payment of a five cent admittance fee. This practice continued until January, 1910, when male patrons were sold a year admittance ticket for $1.00. The cafeteria help was volunteer except for the cook and assistants.

The early years of the Y.W.C.A. had much the same organization as of today. The "physical culture" department was probably the most popular. Gymnasium classes were given, basket ball teams were numerous; hiking, tennis and camping were much enjoyed. Classes were held in domestic science, even a kindergarten class was sponsored. Plays were a favorite diversion. Clubs flourished. One of the early and leading clubs of the organization was the "Fellowship Club".

The Y.W.C.A. moved from the Green Building to the Kaiser Van Leer Building about 1915.

In 1917, a campaign was started for the new building, which is now the present home of the Bloomington Y.W.C.A., located at 311 West Jefferson. The cornerstone for the present building was laid on October 31, 1921. The first meeting of the Y.W.C.A. Board of Directors was held in the building on

May 23rd, 1922.

Up until 1935, the Y.W.C.A. conducted its own campaign for raising maintenance funds, then it affiliated with the Community Chest. In the '20's, the average maintenance costs ran around $16,000 per year, which compares favorably with that requested of the Community Chest. Throughout the years the Y.W.C.A. has had many staunch friends. Today the Association enjoys assistance on the building maintenance through trust funds made possible by those loyal friends. Two of the larger bequests were from the estates of D. C. Smiths and Genevieve Moyer.

The women who have served as presidents from the beginning up to the present time are: Mrs. H. J. Belchner, 1908-09; Mrs. John O. Beck, 1909-14; Mrs. E. Mammen, 1914-15; Mrs. John A. Beck, 1915-20; Miss Vera Snow, 1920-24; Mrs. Lewis Fitzhenry, 1924-29; Mrs. Frank Rice, 1929-31; Mrs. Ferne Wakefield, 1931-34; Mrs. W. D. Snow, 1934-40; Mrs. Glen Waddell, 1940-42; Mrs. W. A. Burkholder, 1942-45; Mrs. Clarence Orr, 1945-47, Mrs. James Parsons, 1947-49; and now the president is Mrs. W. G. Ball.

APPENDIX

BLOOMINGTON DIRECTORY - 1902

Societies and Clubs

Newspapers

Physicians

Hotels

Lawyers

Dentists

Music Teachers

Bloomington Societies and Clubs - 1902

Alumni Association of Wesleyan University--Leona Miller, Pres., Clara L. DeMotte, Sec. and Treas.

Amateur Musical Club--Odd Fellows' Building. Every other Saturday. Mrs. A. B. Funk, Pres.

Bloomington Club--Library Block. Established 1886. D. M. Smith, Pres., Clifford Coolidge, Sec.

Bloomington Turn Verein--Turner Hall, 317 S. Main. Meets first and third Thursdays of each month. Julius Dietrich, Pres., Oscar Scholz, Sec.

Daughters of American Revolution--Letetia Green Chapter. Meets second Tuesday each month. Mrs. John T. Lillard, Regent; Miss Clara DeMotte, Sec.

Four O'Clock History Club--Meets every second Saturday. Mrs. J. O. Willson, Pres.; Miss Lida Fife, Sec.

History and Art Club--Meets every Friday. Mrs. Johnathan H. Cheney, Pres., Mrs. John F. Wight, Sec.

Humane Society--W. H. Kerrick, Agent

Illinois Club--I.O.O.F. Building. Meets first Tuesday of each month. I. N. Wright, Pres.

Longfellow Club--Meets every Second Tuesday. Miss Kate W. Hamilton, Pres., Mrs. W. E. Guthrie, Sec.

Maennerchor Society--Over 108 W. Front. Meets first Sunday after first Monday of each month. William Heinicke, Pres., Steven Gurtner, Sec.

McLean County Medical Society--City Hall. Meets first Thursday

of each month. Dr. C. E. Chapin, Pres., Dr. F.C. Vandervort,Sec.

Margaret Fuller Club--Every other Tuesday. Mrs. Gertrude C. Neiberger, Pres., Miss Nellie Webb, Sec.

Sons of American Revolution--Meets at homes of members. First Thursday of each month. Charles L. Capen, Sec.

Stationary Engineers--Eddy Building. Meets first and third Wednesdays of each month. L. L. Davenport, Pres.

Wolfe Tone Club--Over 309 N. Main. Meets second Sunday afternoon each month.

Woman's Club--I.O.O.F. Hall. Every Wednesday. Mrs. Sain Welty, Pres., Miss Florence Evans, Sec.

Women's Industrial Society--Corner State and Taylor. Meets on call.

Weldon Club--St. Mary's School Building. Corner Center and Locust.

Bloomington Newspapers - 1902

Bloomington Bulletin (Daily and weekly)--201 E. Washington Braley & O'Donnell, Publishers and Proprietors. Established 1880.

Bloomington Journal (German--weekly)--Over 106 N. Main J. Dietrich, Publisher and Proprietor. Established 1878.

High School Aegis (monthly)--Published by the pupils of the Bloomington High School.

Illinois Freemason (monthly)--Hoblit Building. D.D. Darrah, Publisher and Proprietor.

Illinois Christian News (monthly)--W. H. DeWesse Editor.

Morning Call (semi-weekly)--111 North, Normal. Joseph B. Barger, Publisher and Proprietor.

McLean County Herald--111 North St., Normal. W. A. Luzader, Editor and Manager.

Normal Advocate (weekly)--121 Beaufort, Normal. B. H. McCann, Publisher and Proprietor.

School and Home Education--304 E. Walnut. Public-School Publishing Co., Publishers and Proprietors. Established 1880.

The Bloomington Record (weekly)--109 E. Washington. John A. Lasswell, Editor and Proprietor.

The Prohibitionist (weekly)--116 N. East. F. L. Gaston, Editor and manager.

The Pantagraph (daily and weekly)--301 W. Washington. W. O. Davis, Publisher and Proprietor. Established 1846.

The Pioneer (monthly)--Office Unity Building. Official organ Pioneer Reserve Assn. W. E. Stone and Paul Finnan, editors.

Bloomington Newspapers - 1902

The Vidette (monthly)--Office, I.S.N.U. Editor, Normal.

The Tailor (monthly)--Office, Eddy Building. Official organ of Journeymen Tailors' Union of America. J. B. Lennon, Editor.

Wesleyan Argus (bi-monthly)--Office, Wesleyan University.

Bloomington Physicians - 1902

Arendt, Albert, 1001 S. Main
Barts, Nicholas B. Griesheim Building
Bath, Thomas W. Over 112 N. Center
Beadles, Charles H. Griesheim Building
Bishop, Samuel, Griesheim Building
Bonnett, J. Y. Griesheim Building
Burr, L. A. Griesheim Building.
Carr, C. R. 705 N. Main
Chapin, C. E. Griesheim Building
Crothers, Maria L. 414 E. Jefferson
Covington, Eugene G. 516 N. Prairie
Elder, Guilford D. Over 401 N. Main
Elder, Horace W. 303 E. Jefferson
Elliott, John M. 111 W. North, Normal
Fenelon, J. H. Griesheim Building
Fox, A. L. Griesheim Building
Fulwiler, J. W. Griesheim Building
Gornon, T. C. Eddy Building
Guthrie, W. E. Griesheim Building
Haering, Otto E. Over 413 N. Main
Haering, Theodore, Over 413 N. Main
Hall, J. W. Over 201 E. Front
Hallett, Joseph, 304 Unity Building
Hawks, J. K. Griesheim Building
Henton, Alvin T. 602 E. Olive
Hill, William, Over 201 E. Front
Hull, M. D. Griesheim Building
Hyndman, Eliza J. Griesheim Building
Jordan, N. F. 818 W. Washington
Jackman, F. O. 507 W. Locust
Kaeser, A. F. (Rhodes & Kaeser), Corn Belt Bank Building
Kelso, Annie E. 807 N. Main
Kelso, George B. Unity Building
Kunkler, J. E. Griesheim Building
Loar, N. 501 W. Front
Little, Jehu, Over 101 E. Front
McCann, J. 106 E. Beaufort, Normal

Bloomington Physicians - 1902

McCormick, Nelson K. Over 122 North, Normal
McCormick, Ferd, Over 122 North, Normal
Mammen E. Griesheim Building
Morris, A. J. 203 E. Washington
Marsh, Benjamin P. 309-310 Unity Building
Marshall, Joseph, 308 E. Cherry, Normal
Meyer, A. W. Over 115 W. Front
Mullen, Thomas R. Eddy Building
Neiberger, William E. 402 W. Jefferson
Nicolay, John W. Over 401 N. Main
Noble, Charles M. Griesheim Building
Nusbaum, D. H. 2 Hanna Building
Orner, Charles T. 101 E. Market
Parke & Godfrey, Eddy Building
Pitts & Pitts, Eddy Building
Piper, R. S. Griesheim Building
Reedy, Ernest S. Over 102 N. Center
Rhodes & Kaeser, Corn Belt Bank Building
Rhodes, Ora (Rhodes & Kaeser), Corn Belt Bank Building
Rogers, Arthur, 305 Corn Belt Bank Building
Sanders, John F. Over 118 W. Washington
Sanderson, C. R. Corn Belt Bank Building
Smith, George R. Griesheim Building
Smith, J. Whitefield, Griesheim Building
Smith, Lee, Griesheim Building
Taylor, J. B. Griesheim Building
Vandervort, F. C. Griesheim Building
Van Doren, S. H. Griesheim Building
Volz, Fred, 608 E. Grove
Warner, G. F. 1116 N. Main
Weiland, E. G. Over 121 S. Center
Welch, Frank J. Over 101 W. Front
White, John L. Over 102 N. Center
Woolsey, Gilbert R. 117-119 Beaufort, Normal
Yolton, John L. 208 E. Jefferson
Yolton, Rhoda Galloway, 208 E. Jefferson

Bloomington Hotels - 1902

Ames House, 905 W. Chestnut

Annex Hotel, 425-427 S. Main

Arnold The, cor Madison and Washington

Barker House, opposite Union Depot

Bloomington The, cor Jefferson and Center

Butler House, n w cor Madison and Front

European Hotel, over 414 N. Main

Folsom, 401-403 W. Washington

Hills House, cor Jefferson and Madison

Main House, cor Jefferson and Madison

Metropole, 211 N. Main

South Main, 214 S. Main

Wait's Hotel, 218-220 W. Front

Hotel Houghton, cor North and Beaufort, Normal

Transient Hotel, 901 W. Washington

Bloomington Lawyers - 1902

Agle & Hawk, Unity Building
Bane, D. H. Unity Building
Barr, A. J. Corn Belt Bank Building
Barry, Morrissey & Fifer, Unity Building
Benjamin, Ruben M. Unity Building
Bent, Horatio G. First National Bank Building
Boeker, JOhn G. Over 218 W. Washington
Brandican, N. W. Over 112 N. Center
Brock, E. Corn Belt Bank Building
Capen, Charles L. Griesheim Building
Carlock, W. B. & Sons, Unity Building
Conard, A. M. Over 120 N. Center
De Mange, A. E. Unity Building
Donahue, D. D. Unity Building
Donnelly, E. E. Corn Belt Bank Building
Dooley & Dooley, Over 112 N. Main
Ewing, Wight & Ewing, Unity Building
Fitz Henry, Louis, Unity Building
Fulwiler, John A. Griesheim Building
Gillespie, Frank Over 208 N. Center
Goodheart, Benjamin L. First National Bank Building
Hall, Homer W. Griesheim Building
Hallinan, John A. 408 E. Mill
Hamilton, E. M. Over 404 N. Main
Hamilton, Frank Y. First National Bank Building
Hart, Harvey, Unity Building
Hartsell, William W. Unity Building
Hay, L. C. Over 118 N. Center
Hayes, S. H. Griesheim Building
Heafer, Edgar N. Griesheim Building
Henderson, Effie Miss, 1301 N. East
Hoffman, Jesse E. Unity Building
Irwin, Samuel P. Corn Belt Bank Building
Jordan, James M. Over 405 E. Locust
Jordan, George F. Over 108 N. Center
Kerrick, W. H. Over 116 W. Washington

Bloomington Lawyers - 1902

Kerrick & Bracken, First National Bank Building
Kring, W. H. Durley Building
Lillard & Williams, Griesheim Building
Livingston & Bach, Over 202 W. Front
Loar, James L. Corn Belt Bank Building
McKennan, Frank B. Durley Building
Miller, Aurelius M. Unity Building
Miller, Wave, Griesheim Building
Miner, Edwin H. Griesheim Building
Monroe, Albert F. Corn Belt Bank Building
O'Connell, Edmund, Griesheim Building
Oglevee, E. W. Griesheim Building
Peasley, Anthony W. Over 208 N. Center
Peirce, Charles M. Unity Building
Phillips, Isaac N. Corn Belt Bank Building
Pollock, John E. First National Bank Building
Prince, Ezra M. Eddy Building
Pusey, Nathan T. Over 112 S. Main
Rayburn, Calvin, 105 N. Center
Reeves, Harry, G. Over 101 E. Front
Reeves, Owen T. Unity Building
Robinson, S. P. Over 113 W. Jefferson
Ross, D. C. Over 116 W. Washington
Rowell, Neville & Lindley, Griesheim Building
Sammon, D. J. Over 112 N. Center
Spencer, Henry D. First National Bank Building
Stapleton, John, Griesheim Building
Sutherland, E. W. Over 113 W. Jefferson
Thompson, J. J. First National Bank Building
Tipton & Tipton, Griesheim Building
Trowbridge, Fleming & Hoblit, Unity Building
Welty & Sterling, Griesheim Building
Wilder, Frank, 1303 N. Park
Will, Charles I, Over 114 N. Main
Young Miles K. First National Bank Building

Bloomington Dentists - 1902

Beesley, James G. over 106 W. Washington

Brown, Harry C. Unity Building

Brown, J. B. over 401 N. Main

Campbell, John over 115 W. Jefferson

Coen, E. B. Griesheim Building

Covington Dental Parlors, Corn Belt Bank Building

Crigler, J. W. Griesheim Building

Elmer, A. J. Griesheim Building

Griffith, P. R. Eddy Building

Holland, Charles P. Griesheim Building

Jarrett, Ora J. over 115 W. Jefferson

Jones, W. A. Eddy Building

Kasbeer, J. W. Normal

Lockett, L. B. over 200 N. Center

McIntosh, F. H. Durley Building

New York Dental Parlors, over 108 N. Center

Reedy, William L. over 102 N. Center

Reece, John S. Griesheim Building

Bloomington Dentists - 1902

Rodenhauser, H. C. Corn Belt Bank Building

Sitherwood, George D. over 118 W. Washington

Smith, Thomas H. First National Bank Building

Stevenson, H. A. over 115 W. Front

Van Dervoort, B. M. Griesheim Building

Music Teachers - 1902

Ashton, Fred T. over 516 N. Main

Bassett Arthur, Bloomington Conservatory of Music

Bassett Irene, Bloomington Conservatory of Music

Evans, Catherine P. 216 E. Ash, Normal

Gray, John R. Mrs. Wesleyan College of Music

Hersey, Lynn E. Wesleyan College of Music

Irolli, V. F. 409 N. West

Kittle, Carrie, 1108 E. Jefferson

Skinner, Oliver R. over 528-530 N. Main

Walker Nellie E. 917 S. Center

Welch, Minnie A. 812 N. Madison

CITY OFFICERS

BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

1900 - 1950

CITY OFFICERS

MAYOR

1900 - 1902	Lewis B. Thomas
1903 - 1904	George C. Morrison
1905 -	James S. Neville
1906 -	James S. Neville (died in office succeeded by A. G. Erickson)
1907 - 1908	Edward Holland
1909 - 1910	Richard L. Carlock
1911	Albert L. Moore
1912 - 1913	James Costello
1914 - 1915	James Costello Acting Mayor - Daniel M. O'Neil
1916 - 1923	(Commissioners) E. E. Jones
1924	Frank E. Shorthose
1925 - 1927	Frank H. Blose
1928	Ben S. Rhodes
1929 - 1933	Ben S. Rhodes, Acting Mayor Val Simshauser
1933 - 1937	Louis Wellmerling
1937 - 1949	Mark Hayes
1949 -	Cecil Cone

CITY OFFICERS

CITY ATTORNEY

1898 - 1901	William R. Bach
1902 - 1903	Miles K. Young
1904 - 1906	Ben L. Goodheart
1907 - 1911	Louis FitzHenry
1912 - 1915	A. W. Peasley
1916 - 1919	Ned E. Dolan and Richard M. O'Connell
1920 - 1933	Richard M. O'Connell
1934 - 1937	Thomas S. Weldon
1937-'38 - 1949	Richard M. O'Connell
1950 - 19	Bernard E. Wall

CITY OFFICERS

CITY CLERK

1900 - 1903	C. C. Hassler
1904 - 1906	H. L. Denison
1907 - 1912	Harry E. Rhoads
1913 - 1915	Fred R. Evans
1916 - 1923	H. J. Wilson
1924 - 1935	Harmon J. Book
May 3, 1935 - 1948	Porter C. Noble
1949 - 1950	Mrs. Marguerite Zook
1950 -	Mrs. Marguerite Zook

CITY OFFICERS

CHIEF OF POLICE

1900 - 1901	C. W. Hitch
1902 - 1903	F. L. Lang
1904 - 1905	Daniel Strain
1906	F. L. Lang
1907 - 1908	Leslie R. Porter
1909 - 1911	Clarence Irvin
1912	Fred L. Lang
1913 - 1915	Leslie R. Porter
1916 - 1921	J. J. Jones
1922 - 1926	Paul F. Gierman
1927 - 1930	Thomas J. Shanahan
1934 - 1937	Paul Gierman
1938 - 19	Clyde Hibbens

CITY OFFICERS

FIRE MARSHALL

1897 - 1923	Henry Mayer
1923 - 1940	Rolla Neal (Rolla B. Neal)
1940 - 1944	Elmo B. Waters
1944 - 19	Roland Behrend

CITY OFFICERS

SUPERINTENDENT OF WATER AND LIGHT

1900 - 1906	W. H. Schmidt
1907 - 1908	William McKenzie
1909 - 1911	Fred Lamp
1912 - 1915	Seth S. Noble
1916 - 19	Chester C. Williams

CITY OFFICERS

CITY ENGINEER

1900 - 1906	Elmer Folsom
1907 - 1908	Charles F. Fauntz
1910 - 1915	Elmer Folsom
1916 - 1921	Eugene Packard
1922 - 1927	Thomas Lancaster
1927 - 1937	Scott E. McCullough
1937, '38 - 1950	Stanley R. Wilhoit
1950 - 19	Stanley R. Wilhoit

CITY OFFICERS

SUPERINTENDENT OF STREETS

1900 - 1901	D. T. Foster
1902 - 1903	Frank Edwards
1904 - 1912	John F. Anderson
1913 - 1915	Charles T. Evans
1916 - 1923	John F. Anderson
1923 - 1933	Charles T. Evans
May, '33 - 1936 -	Thomas Clark
1936 - 1940	Charles T. Evans
1940 - 1942	No name listed
1942 - 1945 1948	George E. Wall (Died in office)
1948	Harley R. Greene
April, 1949 -	Harley R. Greene
1950 - 19	Harley R. Greene

CITY OFFICERS

HEALTH DIRECTOR

1898 - 1901	Dr. D. O. Moore
1901 (Part of year)	Dr. F. J. Welch
1902 - 1903	Dr. A. W. Meyer
1904 - 1905	J. E. Kunkler
1906 - 1909	Dr. A. W. Meyer
1910 - 1911	Dr. R. W. Bath
1912	Dr. A. W. Meyer
1913 - 1915	Dr. John J. Condon
1916 - 1918	A. G. Erickson (Commissioner of Public Health) Board of Health Dr. F. H. Godfrey, Dr. H. H. Griffin, Dr. H. C. Vandervort
1919 - 1922	Dr. J. M. Furstman (First full-time director)
1923 - 1925	Dr. H. B. Wood
1926 - 1928	Dr. Charles H. Schultz
1928 - 1929	Dr. George D. Heath
1929 (two months0	Dr. H. H. Bishop
1930 - 1931	Dr. Floyd E. fielding
1932	Dr. Floyd E. Fielding (Resigned) Dr. B. Markovitz, M.D.
1933 - 1937	Dr. B. Markovitz
1938 - 1939	No name listed
1940 - 1942	Paul F. Kionka, M.D.
1942 - 1944	Vincent B. Marquis, M.D.

County took over

HISTORICAL MARKERS OF McLEAN COUNTY

Compiled by Reference Department
Withers Public Library

HISTORICAL MARKERS OF McLEAN COUNTY

Compiled by Reference Department,
Withers Public Library

Fire - 1900
Location - Association of Commerce - Monroe St.

"It was here that the Great Fire of June 19, 1900 started. The efforts of a generation were gone in an instant- but from the gray ashes was heroically builded a bigger and better Bloomington.
Placed by the
Bloomington Association of Commerce
June 19, 1918"

First Court in McLean Co.
Location - McBarnes Memorial Bldg., 201 E. Grove

"1830-1930
Site of First court held in
McLean County
Placed by
Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter
Daughters of the American Revolution"

First Settlers in Blooming Grove
Location - Churchyard of Blooming Grove Church

"1822. In memory of John and Jane Hendrix, home ½ mile S.W., John and Ann Dawson, home site ¼ mile N.E. First settlers of Blooming Grove. Erected 1922."

Picture in Hasbrouck, History of McLean Co. v.1, facing p. 81

Isaac & Cassandra Funk, Robert and Dorothy Stubblefield
Location - Funks Grove

"In Memory of Isaac Funk, Cassandra Funk, Robert Stubblefield, Dorothy Stubblefield. Who settled in this Grove 1824. Erected on Site of First Log School House 1924."

This 3 ton boulder was moved from North of Shirley to its present location and erected October 2, 1924.

Grand Army of the Republic
Location - Stone bench east side of Court House

"Dedicated May 21, 1935. In memory of our Fathers, The Grand Army of the Republic, by the Illinois Dept., Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War. 1861-1865."

Gridley, General Asahel
Location - Court House - Main floor

"Born in Cazenovia N.Y. April 21, 1810
Died in Bloomington, Illinois Jan 24, 1892.

A brave soldier in the Black Hawk War. Member of the Senate of the State of Illinois. Brilliant and distinguished lawyer. President and owner of the Original McLean County Bank in 1853. Most loyal citizen. Devoted husband and father and a True friend.
This monument is presented to Bloomington and McLean County in loving memory by his devoted Daughter, Mary Gridley Bell, Oct 8, 1931."

General James G. Harbord
Location - Southeast of Bloomington - Armstrong Place

"General James G. Harbord, Major General United States Army. Born on this Farm March 24, 1866 he rose from these humble surroundings to a place of honor among his countrymen. A brave soldier, an accomplished orator, a distinguished author, a successful business man, a great American.

This Tablet erected in his honor by the McLean County Historical Society July 6, 1937"

This memorial tablet is affixed to the huge boulder set in the front yard of the farm home birthplace of McLean county's famous son, Maj. Gen. James G. Harbord, six miles south of Bloomington.

Richard Hovey

Location - Old Hovey Home 202 W. Mulberry St., Normal

"Richard Hovey: Poet. Born in this House May 4, 1864 Died in New York Feb 24, 1900. Tablet erected by a group who hold the poet's work in high esteem."

Place on front of birthplace Oct. 16, 1929

Location - Granite Boulder & Bronze Plaque
202 W. Mulberry St., Normal

"Richard Hovey, Poet 1864-1900
'Nor is there any heaven beyond the reach of them that know the masteries of song.'
Erected to mark his birthplace by the Alumni Association of the Psi Upsilon fraternity in Chicago, 1931."

Erected April 10, 1931

Elbert Hubbard

Location - S. E. corner of Grove & Main

"On this site Elbert Hubbard was born June 19, 1856 He went down with the Lusitania off the coast of Ireland May 7, 1915."

Presented by his sister Mrs. Mary Hubbard Heath Saturday June 27, 1931 at 4 P.M.

Location - Memorial Stone Seat - Lake Bloomington

The Bloomington Park Board erected a beautiful stone seat to Elbert Hubbard. Beneath Elbert's name is the Roycroft symbol.

Dr. Silas Hubbard

Location - Hudson

A glacial boulder buried in Money Creek bed until it was unearthed by Lake Bloomington dam construction holds the bronze tablet front of the Hubbard home at Hudson. The inscription reads:

"On this Site for 43 years, lived, labored and loved Dr. Silas Hubbard and his wife, Juliana Frances Read"

Location - Lake Bloomington

"This Gate is a Memorial to Silas Hubbard -
Family Doctor - Throughout This Region 1855-1900"

Above the inscription is a bronze bas-relief of Dr. Hubbard's head in a familiar attitude of thought executed by Jerome Connor. The 40 acres which form the entrance park has been named Hubbard Park, and within this, facing the lake, has been erected by the Bloomington Park board a beautiful seat of stones as a memorial to Melville E. Stone who was born in Hudson, and to Elbert Hubbard. Beneath Stone's name is the insignia of the Associated Press AP, and beneath Elbert's name the Roycroft symbol, and carved below are the words: The Money Creek Valley Was Their Boyhood Playground.

The dedication of the Silas Hubbard Gate at entrance to Hubbard Park, Lake Bloomington, Sunday June 28, 1931 at 4 P.M.

Mrs. Mary Hubbard Heath, daughter and grandchildren, donor of Memorial gateway.

Illinois Wesleyan University

1. Location - Buck Memorial Library yard

A Memorial to the Bible

"If any of you lack Wisdom let him
ask of God that giveth to all men
liberally and upbraideth not and it
shall be given Him."

2. Location - Campus - South Side

This bell rang at Hedding Hall
1850-1923
Placed by the Illinois Wesleyan student
union 1934, as a perpetual memorial to
the harmonious blending of these two
institutions.

3. Location - Campus - South entrance to main bldg.

"In honor of Major J. W. Powell, Professor
of Natural Science, Illinois Wesleyan University,
1865-1868. Explorer of the Grand Canyon of
the Colorado 1869-1872.

Erected by the class of 1923"

Lincoln

Location -

1. Court House Lawn - Main St.

"This marks the site of the courthouse in which Abraham Lincoln during the winter of 1858-59, at the request of Jesse Fell, wrote the only autobiography of his early life. This brief sketch produced deep public interest in his campaign of 1860, when he was elected president. The original manuscript is in the Library of Congress in Washington. Abraham Lincoln traveled this way as he rode the Circuit of the 8th judicial District 1847-1857. Erected 1921."

Lincoln

Location -

2. Front and East Streets

"This tablet marks the site where Abraham Lincoln delivered his famous 'Lost Speech'
May 29, 1856.

Placed by
Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter
Daughters of the American Revolution
May 29, 1918"

Location -

3. Livingston's Store - Washington St.

"This Tablet marks the site of old Liberty Hall, Later Phoenix Hall where Abraham Lincoln made a number of speeches.

Placed by
Harriet Wakefield Brady, member
Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter
Daughters of the American Revolution
in memory of her father, Dr. C. Wakefield, a friend of Abraham Lincoln and owner of Phoenix Hall."

Location -

4. Carl Vrooman's Lawn - 701 E. Taylor

Marked by a bronze tablet bearing an inscription written by former Vice-President Adlai E. Stevenson, the great "Lincoln Oak" on the lawn of the Scott place, the home of Mrs. Matthew T. Scott and Mr. and Mrs. Carl S. Vrooman, stands the first to be thus marked among Bloomington's many places hallowed by assocation with Lincoln. The fact that the tree shades the home of a Democratic candidate for the United States Senate and that local Demo-

crats affixed the tablet marking it, gives the affair a peculiarly piquant savor.

"It only goes to show how far aloof the spirit of Lincoln stands above the spirit of partisan politics," said Carl Vrooman in commenting on this seeming incongruity.

The dedication of the oak was at night. The company gathered about the tree on the lawn, and there, by the light of the stars, Nicholas Vachel Lindsey recited his already famous poem of Lincoln.

Owing to ill health, Mr. Stevenson was unable to be present. His memory of the days of Lincoln and Douglas served, however, to make the event significant, for it is upon his authority that the old oak, once a part of "Dimmitt's Grove," a favorite park for political rallies, is identified as being the real "Lincoln Oak" of Bloomington. Following is the inscription Mr. Stevenson wrote, and that is engraved on the tablet that has been affixed to the tree:

> "I have heard Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln at different times, speak from a platform erected under the shade of this tree. This historic spot was then a part of Dimmett's Grove." Adlai E. Stevenson, April 17, 1914.

Statement by Miss Sue A. Sanders:

> "The Lincoln Oak was not located here. Lincoln never spoke here, if he did it was in Dimmett's Cow Barn Yard. I got this fact from Mrs. Wade and Mrs. J. C. Richardson, Dimmitts daughters, also Mrs. J. H. Burnham, living witnesses at this time.
>
> I, Sue A. Sanders, heard Lincoln's speech at this time. Litta the great singer was there, a little baby in her mother's arms. The first time I ever saw her. Lincoln Oak where he spoke stood on the N. E. corner of the block surrounded by Oakland Ave., Bell St., S. Clayton and Clinton Sts."
>
> Sue A. Sanders
> Bloomington, Illinois
> May 17, 1916.

John McLean
Location - Court House - Main floor

"In Memory

1791 John McLean 1830

Shawneetown, Illinois

For whom this County was named. First Representative in Congress 1818. U.S. Senator 1824-1825 and 1829-1830.

Erected by

The Board of Supervisors and McLean Historical Society Dec. 6, 1898."

See 977.359 Transactions of the McLean Co. Historical Society. Vol. 2 p. 241-272.

Miller Park
Location - Soldiers Monument

Dedicated to the 6000 men of McLean County who fought in the Civil and Spanish-American Wars

Potawatomies
Location - Route #2 North of Bloomington

"To mark the last stand of the
Potawatomies in McLean County
1831
Placed by
Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter
D.A.R. 1920"

This marker is seen every day by scores of tourists who pass along state route #2 of Bloomington. It stands at Haven's Grove, near Hudson where sons of early McLean County settlers burned the last Indian village in this section nearly 100 years ago.

Salvation Army

Location - N. corner of Court House Yard

"The Salvation Army held First Service here Nov. 27, 1886. Jubilee - 1936."

Melville Elijah Stone
Location - Southeast Hudson

"Gildersleeve Homestead
Birthplace of
Melville Elijah Stone
August 22, 1848

Founder of
The Chicago Daily News 1876; General Manager of The Associated Press 1893-1918; A great Genius of American Journalism.
Entombment in Washington Cathedral, Washington, D.C., March 23, 1929.

Erected by
The Normal Optimist Club
Normal, Ill. 1933."

This tablet is placed on a large granite boulder, which has been set at the front of the home in south-east Hudson, where Melville E. Stone, one of the founders of the Chicago Daily News and a long time manager of the Associated Press, was born.

Memorial Stone Seat--Lake Bloomington

The Bloomington Park Board erected a beautiful stone seat as a memorial to Melville E. Stone who was born in Hudson. Beneath Stone's name is the insignia of the Associated Press AP.

Inscription under the plaque of Charles L. Capen on the right front wall of Capen Auditorium.

CHARLES L. CAPEN

MDCCCXLV MCMXXVII

Inscription of the plaque on the right side of the wouth entrance of Old Main

ILLINOIS CENTENNIAL TABLET
1818 1918

THE ILLINOIS STATE
NORMAL UNIVERSITY

THE FIRST STATE NORMAL
SCHOOL TO BE ESTABLISHED
IN THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY
AND THE NINTH TO BE
FOUNDED IN THE UNITED
STATES--THIS BUILDING
BEGUN IN 1857, IS THE
OLDEST STATE NORMAL
SCHOOL BUILDING NOW IN
USE IN THE UNITED STATES

THIS TABLET IS PLACED BY THE
NORMAL TOWNSHIP CENTENNIAL
COMMITTEE

Inscription on a plaque placed on the right side of the wall at the lobby of the David Felmley Hall of Science.

IN MEMORY OF

JOSEPH ADDISON SEWELL
Professor of Science
1860-1877
THOMAS JONATHAN BURRILL
Bacteriologist Plant Pathologist
1864-1865
JOHN WESLEY POWELL
Curator Explorer
1867-1872
GEORGE VASEY
Curator Botanist
1868-1872
STEPHEN ALFRED FORBES
Curator Entomologist
Director State Natural History Survey
1872-1884
ARTHUR BLISS SEYMOUR
1881-1884
MINOR LAWRENCE SEYMOUR
Professor of Science
1878-1888
BUELL PRESTON COLTON
Professor of Science
1888-1906
FREDERIC DELOS BARBER
Professor of Physics
1898-1924
ALICE JEAN PATTERSON
Teacher of Nature Study
1906-1929
JOHN LOSSON PRICER
Professor of Biology
1910-1920

"NATURE SPEAKS TO US IN A PECULIAR
LANGUAGE, THE LANGUAGE OF PHENOMENA.
SHE ANSWERS ALL THE QUESTIONS WE ASK
HER AND THESE QUESTIONS ARE OUR
ESPERIMENTS."
Von Liebig

Inscription on a plaque placed on a stone, placed under a tree known as the Thomas Metcalf tree which stands on the right side of lawn in front of the Thomas Metcalf building.

IN REVERENT MEMORY OF THOMAS METCALF
TO WHOM THE TREE UNDER WHICH THIS
BOULDER RESTS WAS AN OBJECT OF LOVE.

PLACED BY THE WOMEN'S IMPROVEMENT
LEAGUE OF NORMAL--MCMXIII.

Inscription on a plaque placed on the right side of the entrance to Fell Gate

1808 1887

JESSE W. FELL
DEDICATED BY HIS GRANDCHILDREN, 1915.

Inscription on a plaque placed on the left side of the entrance to Fell Gate

TO THE FOUNDER OF NORMAL, JESSE W. FELL

FRIEND OF EDUCATION
LOVER AND PLANTER OF TREES
PHILANTHROPIST OF MIGHTY VISION
THIS GATE IS DEDICATED BY THE
WOMEN'S IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE AND
HIS MANY FRIENDS.

Inscription on a plaque placed at the east side of the lobby of the Milner Library, dedicating the building to

ANGE VERNON MILNER

LIBRARIAN OF THE ILLINOIS
STATE NORMAL UNIVERSITY
FROM 1890 to 1928

A LOVER OF BOOKS AND
OF PEOPLE SHE FOUND
HER GREATEST HAPPINESS
IN SERVING OTHERS.

1856-1928

Inscription on a plaque on a boulder in front of Fell Hall. All are names of men giving their lives in World War I.

WILLIAM AUTH
RALPH BARRON
C. NOLAN SMITH
EARL RALPH HART
LOUIS EDDY DAVIS
ROLF LEO MCMANUS
HOWARD HENRY HARDY
ROY WILLIAM SKINNER
MAURICE JAMES PETERS
WILLIAM ROY HINTHORN
ALLINGTON JOYCE JOLLY
ROBERT BENJAMIN HUFFMAN
EDMUND WHITE SUTHERLAND
ARTHUR WILHELM NIEDERMEYER

FOR OUR TOMORROW THEY GAVE THEIR TODAY

Inscription on a plaque which is placed on a boulder in front of Cook Hall

IN MEMORY OF
WILLIAM SAUNDERS
1822-1900
FIRST MASTER OF THE NATIONAL GRANGE
FAMOUS HORTICULTURIST AND
LANDSCAPE GARDENER
WHO PREPARED ORIGINAL LANDSCAPE PLANS
FOR THE CAMPUS OF ILLINOIS STATE
NORMAL UNIVERSITY
DEDICATED BY MAIZE GRANGE APRIL 16, 1932

Inscription on a plaque at the right entrance to Cook Hall, dedicating the building to John Williston Cook.

JOHN WILLISTON COOK AM LLD
1844 1922

PRESIDENT OF THE ILLINOIS STATE NORMAL
UNIVERSITY 189-'99 teacher '66-'99 HE
PROVED THE POWER AND BEAUTY OF FINE TEACHING
THIS IS A MEMORIAL OF HIS SERVICE TO THE
SCHOOLS OF ILLINOIS AND A TRIBUTE TO HIS
LEADERSHIP IN AMERICAN EDUCATION.

Inscription on a plaque hanging on the south wall in the Alumni office at Old Main.

LIEUT. JOSEPH GIDEON HOWELL
CO. K-7TH REGIMENT, ILLINOIS VOLUNTEERS
CLASS OF '60, THE FIRST PRINCIPAL OF THIS
SCHOOL, THE FIRST GRADUATE VOLUNTEER.
KILLED AT FORT DONELSON, FEB. 15, 1862.
FRIEND. TEACHER. SOLDIER. CHRISTIAN
TO HIS MEMORY THIS TABLET IS DEDICATED BY
HIS FELLOW ALUMNI1884.

There are two historic homes in the same block on North McLean street which might receive attention of organizations which favor markings.

ONE IS THE LONGTIME HOME OF ADLAI
STEVENSON, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES, 1893-97. THE OTHER
IS THE HOME WHERE GOV. JOSEPH W.
FIFER SPENT THE LATTER YEARS OF HIS
LIFE. THIS IS AT McLEAN AND WALNUT,
NOW THE HOME OF MRS. FLORENCE FIFER
BOHRER.

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